



8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

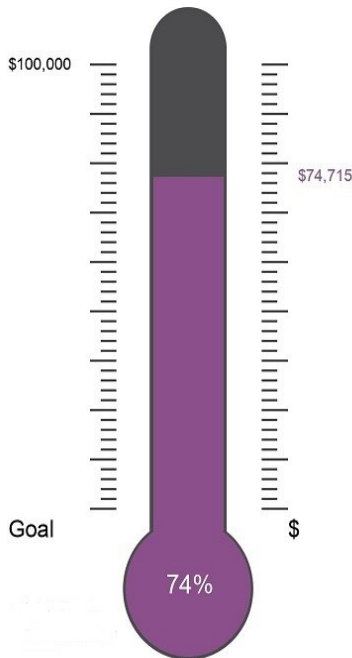
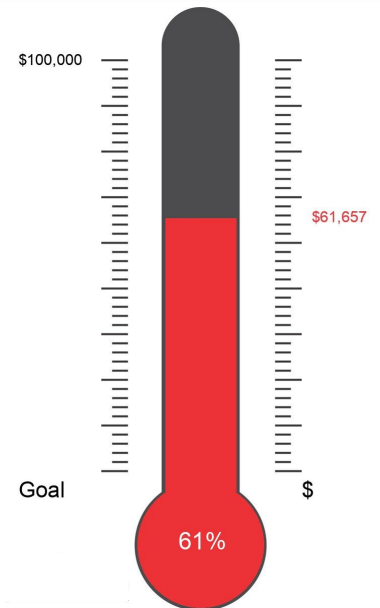


"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like thank you for hearing the call and answering it! We met our \$5,000 matching challenge. Unbelievably, thank God, another benefactor from St. Monica's has stepped forward with a second \$5,000 matching donation challenge for St. Monica's Grand Annual. So we're extending the Grand Annual for another week, and invite parishioners to donate today. Once again, I want to thank you for your faith and generosity in the time, talent, and treasure you have poured into our parish family, and thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Marcos T. Pena Portillo

Lent is here, let us renew our joy

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew" (EG 1). With these words, the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) invites us to *"to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy"* (idem).

As we know, lent is the season the Church provides to renew our joy and get closer to Jesus Christ. We do so, with the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and, almsgiving. Along with these practices, I would like to invite you all to join the different opportunities to continue encountering Jesus Christ, get together as brothers and sisters in faith, and get familiar with the Evangelization project we intend to run next year. In this sense, let me introduce what the collaborative parishes will offer you to participate in.

On Mondays at 6 pm in Saint Monica's Church, Fr. Mike will talk about the jubilee year. With the bull *Spes non confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint) Pope Francis invited us to participate in the 2025 jubilee year that is celebrated all around the world. If you want to know a little more about the jubilee, what to do to gain indulgences, which places to visit as a pilgrim in the Archdiocese of Boston, and many other things, join Fr. Mike during this Lenten season.

On Tuesdays at 6 pm, I invite all of you to join the prayer of the Holy Rosary at the Gethsemane Chapel. After the Holy Rosary, our deacons will give a little reflection about the Virgin Mary.

On Wednesdays at 6 pm, please let us come together to adore Jesus Christ in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. As we do every Wednesday, during this time of Lent we will have adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation at Saint Lucy's Church, but as something special, during Lent we will add worship music to the adoration time. As well as the prayer of the Holy Rosary, this time of adoration is offered during the entire year, but during Lent, can be one of the best opportunities to come together for prayer. Let us remember that we are the branches and Jesus is the vine, without Him we can do nothing (Jn 15:5).

On Thursdays at 6pm, please join me at Saint Lucy's schoolhouse to talk about our Evangelization project. Spreading the good news of the Gospel is the task of every Catholic, because the person who has encountered the Lord, also becomes a witness of this new life, not only by deeds but also by words. In this sense, for five Thursdays, beginning on March 13th, I will introduce the Evangelization project for our collaborative parishes. As part of these presentations, I will focus on the exhortation of Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, but also on the specific strategies we will run to reach those who are not yet part of our communities of faith, such as: the mission one plus one, and the Christ Life project. Would you like to know more about the evangelization? Come and learn.

On Fridays at 6 pm in St. Lucy's Church, we will pray together the Stations of the Cross. Meditating on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ we will prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter with a purified and renewed heart. Please, come to pray, and after prayer please join us downstairs in the Church Hall for a Lenten meal.

Brothers and sisters, let us take advantage of this season of Lent to allow Jesus to get closer to us and renew our joy, keep building our community of faith, and spread the Good News of the Gospel.

ASH WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5

6:30am - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Monica)

9:00am - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Lucy)

12:00pm - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Lucy)

1:00pm - School Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Monica)

all welcome

7:00pm - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Monica)

St Patrick's Dinner
Saturday March 15th
5:30-9:00pm
St Lucy's Lower Church Hall

K of C will be selling tickets after all masses
 at St. Monica & St. Lucy on
 Mar 1/2 & 8/9
 Tickets are \$35 ea. Tables of 10 can be reserved.
 Please contact Kevin Quinn at 978-618-3499



Pray for the Holy Father

SHROVE TUESDAY
Pancake Dinner
MARCH 4TH
5:30 PM-7:30PM

ST. MONICA SCHOOL
\$7 PER TICKET

Parishioners name: _____
 Number of tickets _____ X\$7 _____

Send form to the school for tickets or call
 978-686-1801 to reserve your tickets.



RULES OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE
 Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. (USCCB)



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

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.”

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 7-8pm | 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

**UPCOMING COLLECTION
FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
SUPPORTS
CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, March 2nd, 16th & 30th

St. Monica School Hall
following the 9:00am Mass

Sunday, March 16th

St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
following the 10:30am Mass

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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.

FEBRUARY 15 & 16

St. Monica - \$5,908.00 St. Lucy - \$3,309.00

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 Carrots, Canned Chicken, Canned Fruit, Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup. 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
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



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 ANTIPHON

Psalm 18:19-20

The Lord, my strength and saviour, has led me out to freedom, for the Lord delights in me.

ENTRANCE HYMNAll Creatures of Our God and King

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voic - es,
2. Great rush - ing winds who are so strong, You clouds a - bove that
3. Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for your
4. Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Un - folds your bless-ings
5. All you with mer - cy in your heart, For - giv - ing oth - ers,
6. And e - ven you, most gen - tle death, Wait - ing to hush our
7. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And wor-ship him in



1. let us sing: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing sun with
2. sail a - long, O__ praise him! Al-le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing morn, with
3. Lord to hear, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Fire so in - tense and
4. on our way, O__ praise him! Al-le - lu - ia! All flow'rs and fruits that
5. take your part, O__ sing now! Al-le - lu - ia! All you that pain and
6. fi - nal breath, O__ praise him! Al-le - lu - ia! You lead back home the
7. hum - ble - ness, O__ praise him! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God the Fa - ther,



1. gold - en beams, Soft sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams, O praise him!
2. praise re - joice, Stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice, O praise him!
3. fierce - ly bright, Who gives to us both warmth and light, O praise him!
4. in you grow, Let them his glo - ry al - so show: O praise him!
5. sor - row bear, Praise God, and cast on him your care: O praise him!
6. child of God, For Christ our Lord that way has trod: O praise him!
7. praise the Son, And praise the Spir - it, Three in One: O praise him!



- 1-7. O praise him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA

Refer to pew card

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:4-7

When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do one's faults when one speaks. As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in tribulation is the test of the just. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he speaks, for it is then that people are tested.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name
Most High, To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night. **R.**

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow.
They that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. **R.**

They shall bear fruit even in old age
vigorous and sturdy shall they be, Declaring how just is the LORD, my rock
In whom there is no wrong. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Brothers and sisters: When this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Alleluia Philippians 2:15d, 16a R. Alleluia, alleluia. Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Philippians 2:15d, 16a

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Shine like lights in the world
as you hold on to the word of life.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told his disciples a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye. "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

CREED

Refer to pew card

OFFERTORY HYMN

Be Thou My Vision



1. Be Thou my ___ vi - sion, O ___ Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my ___ wis - dom, and ___ Thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I ___ heed not, or ___ man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of ___ heav - en, my ___ vic - to - ry won,



1. Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art: _____
2. I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord: _____
3. Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways: _____
4. May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! _____



1. Thou my ___ best ___ thought, ___ by day or by night, _____
2. Thou my ___ great ___ Fa - ther, I Thy true son, _____
3. Thou and ___ Thou ___ on - ly, first in my heart, _____
4. Heart of ___ my ___ own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, _____



1. Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy ___ pres - ence my light.
2. Thou in me dwell - ing, and ___ I with Thee one.
3. High King of heav - en, my ___ trea - sure Thou art.
4. Still be my vi - sion, O ___ Rul - er of all.

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI

Refer to pew card

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 13:6

I will sing, O Lord, of your goodness to me,
sing to the name of the Lord Most High.

COMMUNION HYMN

Gift of Finest Wheat

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart — With gift of fin-est wheat, Come
give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat. *F*

1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They
2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you Our
3. Is not the cup we bless and share The
4. The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, No
5. You give your - self to us, O Lord; Then

D.C.
1. fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
2. wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
3. loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
4. not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
5. in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

The Summons

1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
call your name? Will you go where
call your name? Will you care for
you don't know And nev - er be the same?
cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you
Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
let my name be known, Will you let my
life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
life be grown In you and you in me?
an - swer prayer In you and you in me?

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 1

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS

4:00pm Aileen Duncan
Valorie Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. Hurley Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza

Sunday, March 2

9:00am For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica

12:00pm Donald C. MacMillan
Ronald P. MacMillan

Wednesday, March 5 - ASH WEDNESDAY

6:30am Mass with Distribution of Ashes
1:00pm SMS Mass with Distribution of Ashes
7:00pm Mass with Distribution of Ashes

Saturday, March 8

9:00am Joseph Indoccio

4:00pm Thomas Verzi

Sunday, March 9

9:00am Amy Waterworth
Charlie & Rose Hanafin
Flor Salgado

12:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, March 1

4:00pm Manuel Melo

Sunday, March 2

10:30am Fidele & Loretta Boudreau
Rita & James Chiara
Joseph Rapazzo
Vincenzo & Isabella Dadducci
Vincenzo, Jenny, Paul, Sr. & Anthony Meli

Monday, March 3

9:00am Michael Kneeland, Jr.

Tuesday, March 4

9:00am George Simonian

Wednesday, March 5 - ASH WEDNESDAY

9:00am Mass with Distribution of Ashes
12:00pm Mass with Distribution of Ashes

Thursday, March 6

9:00am Linda Zampelli

Friday, March 7

9:00am Nick, Christine & Alyssa Mastrocola
(living)

Saturday, March 8

4:00pm Leo & Margaret Jewitt

Sunday, March 9

10:30am Guy & Marie-Paul Labrie
Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality
Deceased Members of the Fichera,
Fiorentino & Consoli Families
Lucy, Rose & Salvatore Sapuppo and
Deceased Members of their family

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	03/02/25	Fr. Robert Murray	Nicholas Hershbine SJS Portland, ME
Mon	03/03/25	Fr. Albert Faretra	Joseph Maurer SJS Rochester, NY
Tues	03/04/25	Msgr. Joseph Lind	Christian Ortez RMS Boston
Wed	03/05/25	Fr. Daniel Hennessey	Ash Wednesday Rafael Rubio RMS Boston
Thurs	03/06/25	Fr. James Mahoney	Chris Silebi RMS Boston
Fri	03/07/25	Fr. Mark DeAngelis	Isaac Velazquez RMS Boston
Sat	03/08/25	Msgr. John Abruzzese	Liam Warner SJS Boston



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Chris C., Joy M., William T., Chris B., Kathy P., Jeff H., Brian V., Mike B., Louie C., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

Please pray for those whose funerals we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.