

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 29

2024



Holy Family

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. Luke 2:46-47

Our True Home

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see [2 Corinthians 6:16-18](#)).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it.

The family advice we hear in today's readings - for mothers, fathers and children - is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their "familial" ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see [Ephesians 3:15](#)). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see [Luke 19:46](#)). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see [Ephesians 2:19-22](#); [Hebrews 3:3-6](#); [10:21](#)).

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God. Until He reveals His new dwelling among us, and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see [Revelation 21:3,7](#)).



Solemnity of Mary

THE MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1ST

HOLY DAY MASSES

9AM - ST. LUCY CHURCH

12PM - ST. MONICA CHURCH



All of us at the Parish Offices would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy & prosperous new year. May the blessings of God be showered on you and your families this year.

Holiday Office Hours
Wednesday, January 1st....CLOSED

CHRISTMAS SHARING

Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas sharing program this year. We are so grateful for your generosity and your support this Christmas season.

This year many families in the METHUEN area will be helped through the St. Vincent DePaul Society because of your tremendous support.

St. Lucy Parish collected gift cards totaling \$3,401.55 St. Monica Parish collected gift cards totaling \$5,175.

Realizing times are difficult for many, we are so proud of our parishioners for their outstanding support of this Christmas Sharing Program.

Wishing you all a Blessed Holiday Season.
Mary Jo Farelli & Annette Autiello

Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night.
Catechism of the Catholic Church (no 525)

Christmas Tree Pick up
for Methuen residents only
St. Monica School can pick up your Christmas trees for a \$15 donation.
Mr. Marc Krzywicki will be taking appointments for Methuen Residents Only to pick up your tree for the weekends of:
December 28 & 29
January 4 & 5
January 11 & 12
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!

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith, for all you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27)



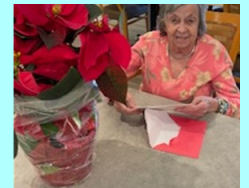
GENTLY USED SECOND HAND ITEMS

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!

SODALITY CHARITABLE GIVING PROGRAM

Several drives to support the community were sponsored by the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality during November and December. Our organization sponsored a drive to collect toiletries for Veterans in November. All items were donated to the International Veterans Care Services, located at 90 Broadway in Methuen.

Members donated \$500 in Market Basket Gift Cards to St. Vincent de Paul Society of St Lucy/St Monica church. Sodality members delivered Poinsettia plants to 8 homebound women and former Sodality members during December. This annual event provides some cheer and comfort for these women.



In today's changing educational climate, Catholic schools offer an unparalleled opportunity to provide children with an education rooted in faith, academic excellence, and strong moral values. At St. Monica School, our students benefit from a nurturing environment where they are encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. With dedicated teachers, and a Christ-centered curriculum, we prepare students not only for academic success but also to lead lives of service and integrity. In a world where values and personal growth are often overlooked, Catholic education and St. Monica School in particular, stands as a beacon of hope, fostering resilience, compassion, and leadership. We invite you to experience the difference firsthand-visit our open house, explore our website, or stop by for a tour to see how Catholic education can transform the future for your children and grandchildren.

ST. MONICA SCHOOL

**OPEN HOUSE
JANUARY 28TH
6:00PM**

Currently accepting applications for Fall 2025



It is a wonderful place to begin your child's Catholic School education.

Please call to set up a tour and learn about our application process.
978-686-1801 212 Lawrence Street
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org Methuen, MA 01844

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, January 4th | St. Monica Church
Rosary to follow in Gethsemane Chapel

<p>Faith FITT SATURDAYS 8AM</p>	<p>St. Lucy's Lower Church Hall</p>
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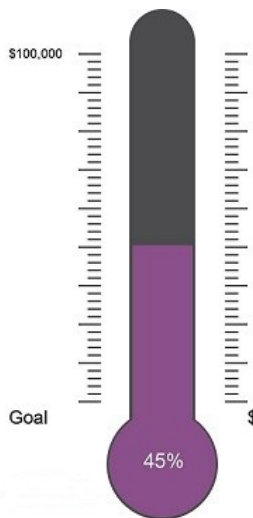
I look to the future with hope, and I invite you to do the same...we have an incredible opportunity to build the Kingdom of God by responding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit for the good of our parish, our community, and ourselves. To become even more vibrant and active in spreading the Gospel and sharing the hope of Christ with others.”

...The Grand Annual Appeal represents a crucial step in achieving our goals. For this reason, I thank you for your generous support of the Appeal, and our weekly offertory/online giving. As Saint Paul write to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Cor 9: 6-8).

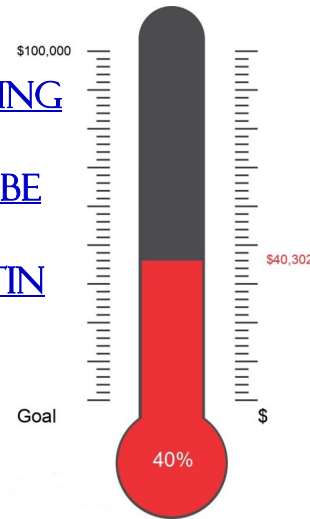
As I repeat at the end of every Mass, thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures; and in a special way, thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Marcos



DUE TO HOLIDAY PRINTING DEADLINES, GRAND ANNUAL WILL BE UPDATED IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN



St. Monica Parish



St. Lucy Parish



DUE TO HOLIDAY PRINTING DEADLINES,
OFFERTORY WILL BE UPDATED IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

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 Pasta Sauce, Canned Pasta, Jelly, Baked Beans & Rice Sides. 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 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	
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*Luke 2: 16*

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

ENTRANCE HYMN*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14*

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5*

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labor of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
Your children like shoots of the olive around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blest all those who fear the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

SECOND READING*Colossians 3: 12-21*

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Hebrews 1: 1-2***Alleluia, alleluia**

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Alleluia, alleluia**GOSPEL***Luke 2: 41-52*

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Baruch 3: 38*

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among 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*What Child Is This*

Verses




1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to




1. sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
 2. feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
 3. own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let


Refrain




1. shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the
 2. si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 3. lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



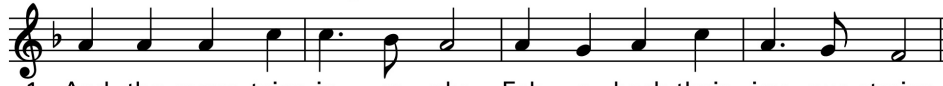
King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste,



haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Ma - ry.


RECESSIONAL HYMN*Angels We Have Heard on High*


1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See him in a man - ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;




1. And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
 3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 28

9:00am William & Margaret Collins
Jack Moore

4:00pm Robert Putnam

Sunday, December 29

9:00am Lorraine Malignaggi
Connie Mercier
Marilee Ralph

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

Wednesday, January 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

12:00pm HOLY MASS

Saturday, January 4

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS

4:00pm + Mark McComiskey
+Michael Cestrone
+ Connie Cestrone

Sunday, January 5

9:00am + Charles & Rose Hanafin
For the victims of human trafficking
especially children
Victims of hurricane Helene

12:00pm + Fides Caprario
Noreen Kiely

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 28

4:00pm Douglas Hamel

Sunday, December 29

10:30am Antoinetta Petteruti
John McDermott
Maria Carelli
Deceased Members of the
Carelli & Rea Families
Giuseppe Sangiorgio & Deceased
Members of the Sangiorgio Family
Charles Rimas
Catherine Petralia

Monday, December 30

9:00am Alice Beverley

Tuesday, December 31

9:00am Maria Carelli

Wednesday, January 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9:00am HOLY MASS

Thursday, January 2

9:00am + Aline Duncan
+ Valorie Duncan
+ Mr. & Mrs. Hurley Duncan
+ Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza

Friday, January 3

9:00am + Vincent Rea

Saturday, January 4

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

Sunday, January 5

10:30am + Robert & Brenda Maurais
+ Phyllis Baddour
+ Deceased Members of the Pisano,
Spampinato, DiLavore & Saitta Families
+ Joseph Moreau

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/29/24	Fr. Thomas F. Powers	Xavier Stooks, OMV
Mon	12/30/24	Fr. Kevin McGrade	Matthew Thoni RMS Boston
Tues	12/31/24	Fr. Daniel O'Connell	Giovanni Trimboli RMS Boston
Wed	01/01/25	Pope Francis	Hieu Trung Chu SJS Hanoi
Thurs	01/02/25	Fr. Leo Martel	Vince Barcinas SJS Boston
Fri	01/03/25	Carmelites of Mary Immaculate	Patrick Barr SJS Providence
Sat	01/04/25	Fr. Carlos Suarez	Patrick Early SJS Boston

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Louie C., Sarah W., Eileen F., Robert L., Madelyn, Buddy B., Maria P., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

Please pray for Kevin McCarthy, Liam Gabriel Lituma & John MacLean whose funeral we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.