METHUEN CATHOLIC THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." ~Matthew 18:19-20

SEPT 10

2023

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

Opportunities and Challenges in the New Season

Just as fair warning up front, you saw this bulletin entry last week. The reason being fairly obvious for those of you who were here on Labor Day Weekend: we were not sure how many people will worship on the holiday weekend, but hopefully more will come this week with the start of school and the beginning of religious education just around the corner. Also, over the course of two weekends, pretty much everybody that attends Church will do so.

That's the good news. We have very consistent Mass attendance numbers throughout the seasons of the year. We didn't really have a big summer drop-off for two years running. However, the challenge is that we don't have a big fall return either. You who come to Church are dedicated to the Lord, as He asks us to be. The challenging news is the opposite side of the coin. Many people have not returned to the active practice of the Faith. Basically, our Mass attendance numbers are *HALF* of what they were from before the pandemic.

By the way, that's not just here, but across the region. In 2018 the weekly Mass attendance across the Archdiocese of Boston was essentially 220,000, approximately 12% of the 1.85 million baptized Catholics in Boston. In October of 2022 (the most recent annual count) it was down to only 105,000 (6%). Perhaps more folks will spontaneously return with the new school year, but the trend has been the same for decades: in 2012 the weekly average was 260,000 (14%) and in 2005 it was 320,000 (17%). Of course, many of us remember when the numbers were closer to 75% Mass attendance rate!

In the letters sent out in October 2022 for our Financial Review and Grand Annual Appeal, I wrote: "I will give you the good news up front: we are actually *more financially and facilities sound than we were in Spring of 2019....[etc.]* Now the not so good news. Between now and June 2023, we project that St Monica / St Lucy Parish will have an operating loss of \$110,000 / \$60,000" [respectively].

You may remember the reasons for those deficit projections being the lower Mass attendance, rising inflation, and increased costs given that the parishes were fully open. In the Grand Annual Appeal homily I said that since we are in good shape in many ways, we could live the following year in hope to enliven parish life and to diversify our revenue streams. In other words, I didn't want to come back last spring and promote an increased giving campaign on you who have always supported the parishes at the highest rate. So I suggested that we donate our time to the parish events: "Just show up," and make our community an attractive place for others to rejoin.

We did a pretty good job in that regard. Everything we did had a good turn out, though financially the results were as predicted: offertory and grand annual that didn't meet budget, events that still need to be turned into major fundraisers, and new initiatives such as the Legacy Foundation, which promotes estate gifts, without much response. So at the end of Fiscal Year, June 2023, both parishes had those large deficits. Large enough to announce that we only have two or three years worth of savings if we don't turn the trend around.

So we enter the new season determined to reverse the trends in "Time, Talent, and Treasure." In short, everyone will be invited to pitch in more, reach out more, and to give more. Some of these areas very much overlap. For example, excellence and beauty in the liturgy and worship is a compelling attraction to the soul, whether we realize it in the moment or not. Sometimes specific Sunday Masses should enliven our parish community by having a family focus during religious education classes and offering hospitality whenever possible. At other times and seasons, the Masses could similarly focus on reverence for the Lord and his Eucharistic Sacrifice.

NEWS

SEPT 10, 2023

Here's a test case that seeks to combine several of the elements of a flourishing parish: the return of welcomers at the door and the passing of the collection basket. Obviously, anyone who is new or returning will have a positive first impression by a simple hello. But just as important is the willingness of individuals to pitch in their time to serve and to be a person of outreach to the stranger. Now personally (and this should come as no surprise), I like the donation basket at the church entrance for a number of reasons, but taking up a collection in the pews does provide a few advantages.

Liturgically it is meant to represent the gifts we give to the Lord. Financially it is a reminder to all that we are obligated to support the parish and that it is in great need of revenue (often people just don't see the basket at the door, particularly if they are visiting). The addition of an active ministry, provided it is respectful and reverent, will immediately depict the necessity that we all must participate in some way in the life of our parish. Lastly, by finalizing the move away from a "single point of entry" mentality, the whole church will just feel more open and inviting. Of course, again, that requires welcomers to hand out bulletins and those entering to agree to act as money collectors at the time of the offertory.

All these elements are meant to blend together in an upward trend of parish flourishing. Please be attentive to the many needs of the parishes as we enter the new season and please be responsive in some way to the invitations "time, talent, treasure" as they apply to you.

When we have to reply to anyone who has insulted us, we should be careful to do it always with gentleness. A soft answer extinguishes the fire of wrath.

St. Alphonse Liguori

REGISTRATION FOR FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENT PREPARATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 29TH.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER.

METHUENCATHOLIC.ORG

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QUESTIONS, CONTACT KARL AT (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35 faithformation.stlm@gmail.com



SEPT 10, 2023

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION CLERGY TRUST

Next week's second collection supports 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





Are you looking for a part time job? Retired teachers, high school students, college students—Look no further!

St. Monica School is looking for caring individuals to work with our students in our afterschool program. Responsibilities include playing games, arts and crafts and general supervision of school-aged children.
Our afterschool program runs Monday thru Friday 2pm – 6pm. Hours and days are flexible.

If interested and would like to learn more about this position, please call the school office at 978-686-1801 or email me at principal@methuencatholic.org



GOT QUESTIONS



Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life and questions of faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No judgment. No pressure. No charge. Join us Tuesday Evenings.

> First Meeting is Tuesday, September 19 | 6pm St. Lucy Schoolhouse | 254 Merrimack St.

To register call the office at 978-683-1193 or Email alphacourse.stlm@gmail.com



St. Monica Knights of Columbus Council 14725 Fundraiser

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 The Irish Cottage - 17 Branch St., Methuen 4-10pm For both dine-in and take-out

Bring this flier and give to your server when cashing out and The Irish Cottage will donate 20% of your total bill (excluding alcohol) to St. Monica Knights of Columbus Council 14725. In addition, for those in attendance at the fundraiser, The Irish Cottage will donate an additional \$1 per guest for those in attendance for the fundraiser.

Come by and help support KofC Council 14725 THANK YOU!!



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

NEWS

SEPT 10, 2023



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Patroness of the Americas Star of the First and the New Evangelizations Patroness of the Unborn

Nine Tuesdays from September 12 - November 7 Saint Monica Church 7pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Praying the Rosary The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary Reading and Meditation/Reflection The Novena Prayers Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

"Let not your heart be disturbed. Am I not here? Are you not under my protection? So not grieve or be disturbed by anything."

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- RCIA 9-10:15am St. Lucy School House
- BVM Sodality Morning of Reflection 10am-1pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Baptisms 2pm St. Monica Church
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Boy Scouts 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Rosary Prayer Group for Priests 6pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Bereavement Group 6pm St. Monica House
- Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe 7pm St. Monica Church

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- Alanon 10am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration followed by Women's Ministry 6pm St. Lucy Church & Lower Church Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- MRA Meeting 9:30-11:30am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church
- Rosary (Zoom) 6pm
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church
- Seven Sisters Meeting 6pm St. Monica House

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- Faith2Fitt 8am Methuen Track & Field
- Mass 9am St. Monica Church
- Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Bettors Anonymous 2pm St. Monica SVDP Hut
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel & St. Lucy Church

BAPTISM MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Baptism Ministry Team accompanies families seeking baptism for their children.

We are excited to invite members of our parishes to learn more about this rewarding and essential ministry by contacting Andrea at 978-257-3472 or atkbradstreet@aol.com

SEPT 10, 2023

OFFERTORY AUGUST 26 & 27

St. Monica - \$7,698.00

St. Lucy - \$4,195.00

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, rice, rice sides, mashed potatoes, peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, canned beans, tuna, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit & pancake syrup. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy Church and the side door of

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com.

Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church.

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

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

PAR ISH 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

PASTOR AL 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@gmai	il.com	

SCHOOL STAFF

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



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

SONGS & READINGS

Ps 119 (118): 137, 124

SEPT 10, 2023

You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA

Refer to Pew Card

Ezek 33: 7-9

FIRST READING

Thus says the LORD: You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95 (94): 1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9



Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

SONGS & READINGS

SECOND READING

Brothers and sisters: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

℣. God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ * and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven, Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

CREED

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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. <u>Amen.</u>



SEPT 10, 2023

Refer to Pew Card

Ps 42 (41): 2-3





2 Cor 5: 19

Mt 18: 15-20

SONGS & READINGS

SEPT 10, 2023 I Heard the Voice of Jesus



POSTLUDE AT ST. MONICA

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Mr. Bush

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, 2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, Earth and heav'n re - 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, 4. Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus Which the morn - ing
1. Lordoflove;2. flectthy rays,3. ev -er4. starsbe - gan;
1. O - p'ning to the sun a - bove. 2. Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise; 3. O - cean depth of hap - py rest! 4. Bind - ing all with - in its span. Ev - er sing - ing,
 sin and sad-ness; Drive the dark of doubt a - way; vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea, Christ our broth - er, All who live in love are thine; march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife;
1. Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day. 2. Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in thee. 3. Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine. 4. Joy - ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, In the tri-umph song of life.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, September 9

9:00am Yvonne & Roland Soucy

4:00pm Julie Ahles

Sunday, September 10

- 9:00am For the Parishioners of St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes
- 12:00pm Mary & Richard Viano

Saturday, September 16

9:00am	Aline Duncan	
	Valorie Duncan	
	Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza	
4.00pm	loseph Moreau	

4:00pm Joseph Moreau Marion & Harry Cunha

Sunday, September 17

9:00am	Frank Doherty	
	Albert & Connie Zampelli	
	Robert & Elizabeth Pierce	
	John & Ida Manning	
	Edward Ferreira	
10.00	Fauth - Davishian and of	

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

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	09/10/23	Fr. Joseph Rossi	Joe Jasinski
Mon	09/11/23	Fr. Charles Hughes	Tim Walsh
Tues	09/12/23	All Marists	Brian Daley
Wed	09/13/23	Fr. John Currie	Brian Delaney
Thurs	09/14/23	Fr. Patrick Armano	All Seminarians
Fri	09/15/23	Fr. Bruce Flannagan	Dong Pham
Sat	09/16/23	Fr. Brian Flynn	Ulises Diaz

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, September 9

4:00pm Michael Kenny, Jr.

Sunday, September 10

10:30am Antonio DiFruscia Carlos Hayon Robert Higgins Victor Andreoli Kelly Sciacca Martin

Monday, September 11

9:00am James Mahoney

Tuesday, September 12 - LIVING INTENTIONS

9:00am Steven Folley & family Knights of Columbus Council 14725 Maria SS Dei Lattani Maria SS Di Constantinodoli Margaret Maher

Thursday, September 14

9:00am Susan McGee

Friday, September 15

9:00am Sr. Mary Theresa, OSC

Saturday, September 16

4:00pm Roberta Palmisano

Sunday, September 17

10:30am Margaret J. Covey Dominick "Rex" Campone Jacqueline Larocque Jim Gablosky Victoria & Julio Sandoval



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Marlene, Kay, Jim, Carlos S., Paul C., Meg C., Jesus L., Kevin W., Bill R., Patrice K., Jason, & Matt W.

Please pray for Kathleen J. Sheehy & Frank Messina 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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