

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

AUG 18
2024



Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

John 6:53

Friends,

When someone asks me if I know another priest and they name him I usually respond that if I have never lived with him or heard him preach, I really don't know him. I believe parishioners want to know their pastor personally and for those who celebrate their faith at church there is the opportunity to meet, have conversation, and become friends. I also really enjoy writing a column in the church bulletin each week which provides another opportunity to reveal our thoughts and faith experiences. I realize some priests will not feel comfortable sharing on a personal level, but I truly look forward to sharing this way. And for our parishioners who may not be able or comfortable coming to church or joining us virtually, the bulletin/webpage is another avenue to connect. Because I read a lot, I am constantly writing down ideas and quotes from authors that challenge me to broaden my horizons and expand my borders. I thought I may share some of those with you this week as we begin our third month together.

"If you ask a naïve child: 'Do you believe in Santa Claus?' He or she will say, yes. If you ask a bright child the same question, he or she will say, no. However, if you ask yet an even brighter child that question, he or she will reply, yes...though now for a different reason."

"You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out God hates all the same people you do." -Anne Lamott

"The outdoors isn't a place given to boys and girls by their parents; nature is a place you're borrowing from your kids." -Chris Bohjalian, *The Lioness*

"My point once again is not that those ancient people told literal stories and we are now smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are now dumb enough to take them literally." -John Dominic Crossen

"Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. There never was a democracy that did not commit suicide." -John Adams

"The question is not whether the church can convert the world, but whether God can convert the church." -Paul Stagg (American Baptist Church)

"What good is having the right to sit at a lunch counter if you can't afford to buy a hamburger?" -Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Spirituality is more about whether or not we can sleep at night, than about whether or not we go to church...Irrespective of whether or not we let ourselves be consciously shaped by any explicit religious idea, we act in ways that have us either healthy or unhealthy, loving or bitter. What shapes us is our spirituality." -Ron Tolheiser, OMI

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed unless it is faced." -James Baldwin

And finally, for those who remember advice columns: "Dear Ann Landers: I am a 16-year-old girl who is a nervous wreck from getting yelled at. All I hear from morning till night is, 'Stop smoking, get off the phone, hang up your clothes, do your homework, clean up your room.' How can I get them off my case? Signed, Sick of Parents. Dear Sick: stop smoking, get off the phone, hang up your clothes, do your homework and clean up your room."

You gotta love it. Enjoy life!

Fr. Ron Coyne

Greetings from Fr. Marcos

Dear Parishioners

These past two weeks have been weeks of some news for the Archdiocese of Boston and our parishes in particular. Two weeks ago, we received the news that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Bishop Richard G. Henning S.T.D., as the new Archbishop of Boston. We welcome our new Archbishop with great joy and we pray to God to bless him at all times. A week ago, my assignment as Administrator of St. Monica and St. Lucy's Parishes was also announced. When the clergy personnel told me that this was my new assignment, I received it with great joy, knowing that it is God who guides his Church. I pray to God for all of you whom He entrusts me to serve as a priest, and I also pray for myself, that He may help me to be a good instrument in His hands. Please remember me in your prayers.

I am sure that we will have time to get to know each other, grow in fraternal love, and enrich each other with the gifts that God has given us, but so that you have an idea of who I am, allow me to tell you a few things about myself. I am Father Marcos T. Peña Portillo, born and raised in El Salvador. I come from a large family, we are seven siblings and our parents are: Santiago Peña and Maria E. Portillo de Peña. In 2009 I was ordained as priest for the Archdiocese of San Salvador, but on April 5th of this year I was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Boston, since I have been living in Massachusetts for a little over four years. The last two months I have been parochial vicar of Saint Peter Parish in Cambridge, but from February 2020 to June 2024 I was parochial vicar of All Saints Parish in Haverhill, where I enjoyed my last four years of priestly ministry.

Now God has entrusted me with a new task, much more demanding than the previous one. I trust that God will give me the wisdom to be a good shepherd, I am sure that all of you will help me with my new task because of your love for God and your community, and I promise that I will do my best to live up to my new assignment.

May God bless our parishes of St. Monica and St. Lucy, and may He help us to bring His message of love to all those He has placed at our side.

Yours in Christ,

Father Marcos Peña

Our parishes will be hosting a joint-farewell reception for Fr. Ron Coyne on Sunday, August 25th after the 10:30AM Mass at St. Lucy's Church. All are welcome!

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MISSION VISIT/SECOND COLLECTION

Fr. Bernard Makadani Zulu from The Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be preaching at all our masses on the weekend of **August 24th and 25th**. We will be taking up a **second collection** for the needs of the people of the Diocese of Chipata.

The Diocese of Chipata is appealing for financial support to provide food relief and water to affected communities after the severe drought that Zambia experienced in the 2023/2024 rainy season. This was the driest agricultural season in over 40 years, resulting in significant crop losses, increased livestock deaths, shortage of water, and worsening poverty for many families.

The rainy season was characterized by late onset, prolonged dry spells, and high temperatures. The erratic rainfall affected crop and animal production; many families depend heavily on rain fed farming. These dry conditions resulted in massive reduction in crop production, with maize (corn) production, which is a staple food, declining drastically.

Shortage of food due to depleting stocks, and increasing commodity prices will increase the risk of malnutrition among the affected communities. The food shortages and rising prices for the staple food will hinder vulnerable peoples' access to food, especially in rural areas where the poverty levels remain high.

We ask for your support to mitigate the impact of the severe drought and build resilience within our communities to emerge stronger. Your sacrifice and immeasurable generosity will serve and protect the lives of many people in Chipata Diocese.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

.....
ST. LUCY PARISH FALL CRAFT FAIR

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26,
2024 | 9:00-3:00

Come join us for a fun-filled Saturday with great shopping & special events!

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...FREE Admission...



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COME CELEBRATE OUR
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BE FRENCH with us at this FREE CONCERT as Marie-Line Morin & Friends, recalling French Canadian history & cultural traits with various songs, some from "Les Misérables", lead us to the heart of our heritage: our FAITH IN CHRIST.



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SATURDAYS 8AM

Methuen Track & Field



Queenship OF THE Blessed Virgin Mary

August 22

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 - to resume in September

Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions. Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Saturdays 9am-12pm Gethsemane Chapel

AUGUST 3 & 4

St. Monica - \$8,512.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$4,874.⁰⁰

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 Spaghetti, Canned Tuna, Canned Beans, Canned Fruit, and 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 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

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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
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



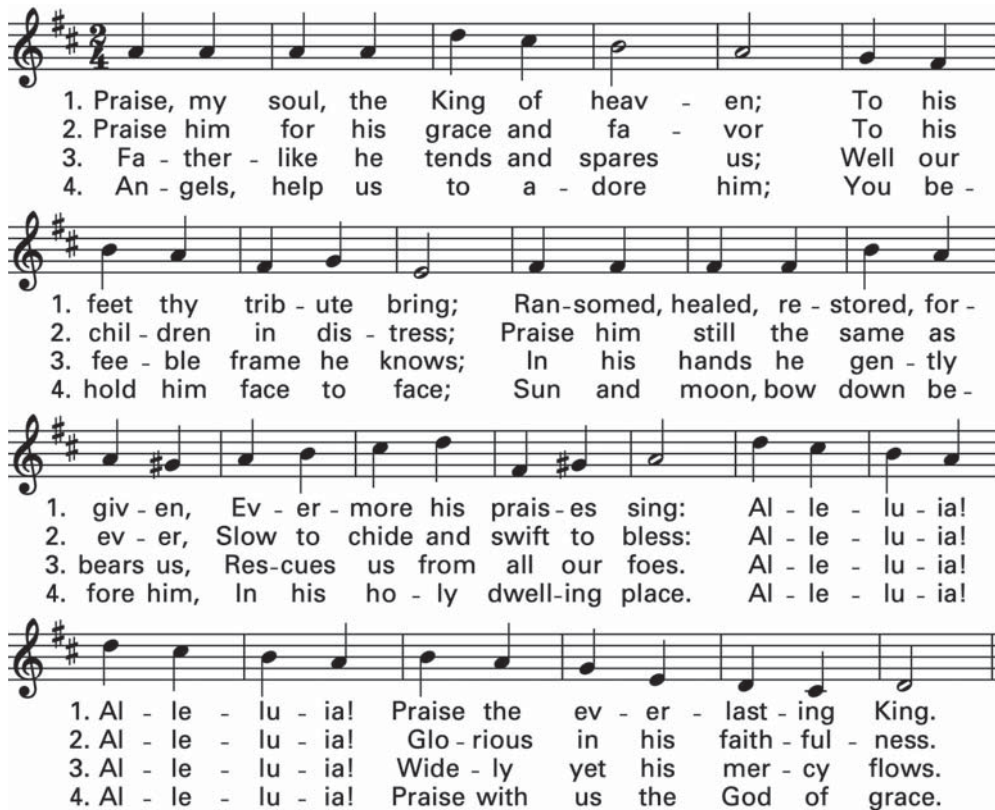
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SCHOOL STAFF

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Psalm 84 (83): 10-11*

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one.
one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

ENTRANCE HYMN*Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven*


1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To his
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To his
3. Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; Well our
4. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; You be -

1. feet thy trib - ute bring; Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for -
2. chil - dren in dis - tress; Praise him still the same as
3. fee - ble frame he knows; In his hands he gen - tly
4. hold him face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be -

1. giv - en, Ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
2. ev - er, Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
3. bears us, Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
4. fore him, In his ho - ly dwell - ing place. Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
4. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Proverbs 9: 1-6*

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns; she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table. She has sent out her maidens; she calls from the heights out over the city: "Let whoever is simple turn in here; To the one who lacks understanding, she says, Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9*


R. Taste and see the good - ness 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.

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.

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

SECOND READING*Ephesians 5: 15-20*

Brothers and sisters:

Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

GOSPEL*John 6: 51-58*

Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."


CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***John 6: 51-52*

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord.
Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.


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*O Breathe On Me, O Breath of God*


1. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, Fill
 2. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, Un -
 3. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, My
 4. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, So



1. me with life a - new, That I may love the
 2. til my heart is pure; Un - til my will is
 3. will to yours in - cline, Un - til this self - ish
 4. I shall nev - er die, But live with you the



1. things you love, And do what you would do.
 2. one with yours, To do and to en - dure.
 3. part of me Glows with your fire di - vine.
 4. per - fect life For all e - ter - ni - ty.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*


1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, the head and
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of
 3. Grant, we pray, to all your peo - ple, All the grace they
 4. Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



1. cor - ner - stone; Cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 2. hosts, to - day; With your wont - ed lov - ing kind - ness,
 3. ask to gain; What they gain from you for ev - er
 4. to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



1. Bind - ing all the Church in one, Ho - ly Si - on's
 2. Hear your ser - vants as they pray, And your full - est
 3. With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter
 4. Ev - er three and ev - er one, One in might and



1. help for ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 2. ben - e - dic - tion, Shed in all its bright - est ray.
 3. in your glo - ry, Ev - er - more with you to reign.
 4. one in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, August 17

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes

4:00pm Deceased Members of the
Beaudoin & Muhilly Families

Sunday, August 18

9:00am Roland Beaudoin
James Oliveri
Joan Murphy

12:00pm Deceased Members of the
Finocchiaro Family

Saturday, August 24

9:00am Paul & Josephine Amato

4:00pm Thelma McGreevy

Sunday, August 25

9:00am Rene & Yvonne Lacoste
Eileen Fullen

12:00pm Rose & Michael Arcidiacono
Josephine DiMauro Demers



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, August 17

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

Sunday, August 18

10:30am Linda Ferraro
Carmene & Carmela Santantonio
Pasquale & Carmela DiLorenzo
Dorothy Boragine
Lucy Boragine
David Doherty

Monday, August 19

9:00am Manny Gianni
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, August 20

9:00am Albert & Kathleen Fritchey

Thursday, August 22

9:00am Antonio & Evelina Mollica

Friday, August 23

9:00am Bertrand LeBlanc
Real Taschereau
Gerard Taschereau

Saturday, August 24

4:00pm John McKenna

Sunday, August 25

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

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	08/18/24	Fr. William Leonard	Fritz Anacreon
Mon	08/19/24	Fr. John Ahern	Aaron Arbizo
Tues	08/20/24	Fr. R. Michael Guarino	Giris Azize
Wed	08/21/24	Fr. John Kiley	Stephen Baruffi
Thurs	08/22/24	Fr. Paul Phinn	Michael Castellon
Fri	08/23/24	Fr. Michael Hobson	Alexander Charow
Sat	08/24/24	Fr. Chris O'Connor	Gerson Garcia



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Leo M., Janet C., Taylor, Dirk D., Claire M., & Patrice K.

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



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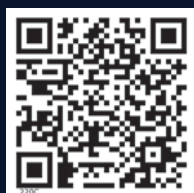
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