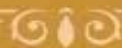




25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:35b-37a

This week we celebrated the Exaltation of the Cross. Of course, it is difficult to exalt the Cross because it is perhaps the most horrendous form of capital punishment that mankind ever conceived. The Cross is God's plan for the salvation of mankind from all eternity. The Cross is God's manifestation of the love that is the very nature of God. God is love and God is unchanging. God loves us with the love of Jesus on Calvary from all eternity. God walks with us in the difficult moments; we are not alone. God doesn't stop loving us when we fall. Rather, God seeks us like a hound from Heaven, drawing us back to His mercy in the Sacraments, especially Holy Confession and Holy Eucharist.

Psalm 23 reassures us that no matter what we experience, we are not alone: "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." What is that dark valley? The sufferings we experience, the stuff that happens to us sometimes at random, sometimes by our own cause, sometimes by someone's innocent intent, and sometimes because someone has bad intent. The dark valley is ultimately when our bodies fall asleep for the last time and our souls are liberated. It is the hope we need that Jesus will be with us, the Good Shepherd who leads us, with rod and staff, with the Cross, that gives us hope, that gives us strength, across the dark valley of death to the restful shores of eternal life in God.

God the Father, from all eternity, gives this hope to us through the life and saving work of Jesus. On the night before Jesus suffered Calvary, He said, "I am troubled now. Yet, what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour." Jesus was born for one purpose. He was born to die. His Passion and Death on the Cross liberate us from the slavery of sin. Free will is God's gift and we can misuse it. We do fall in sin and sin wounds our souls. His wounds heal our wounds. Our sin separates us from God, especially Mortal Sin that destroys God's sanctifying grace in us. When we seek reconciliation, God heals the separation with the merits of His Passion and Death. In this way, God maintains our option to seek Him freely, especially when we have fallen in sin and need His mercy. God's mercy is deeper and wider than we can imagine. All we need to do is seek that mercy especially in the Sacraments of the Church. God's mercy is inexhaustible because it is of God.

God joins His Divinity to the humanity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He lowers Himself to become a human person and offers His humanity to save all humanity. But before He makes that offering on Calvary, He also lowers Himself further by promising to be with us always in the Most Blessed Eucharist. "This is My Body. This is My Blood." In other words, this is Me, your loving God, with you from all eternity and with you always to the end of the age. Jesus is in the Eucharist, really, truly, and substantially, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in a morsel of consecrated wheat, in a drop of consecrated wine.

God offers His Divine eternal life to us. "My Flesh is true food. My Blood is true drink." If you eat my Flesh and drink my Blood, you have the secret of Eternal Life in you. We do exalt the Holy Cross because God offers God to God, from the Last Supper, from the Altar of the Cross on Calvary, from the Altar at every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Jesus offers His Body and Blood to our Heavenly Father for us, to give us hope, to give us strength.

God bless you

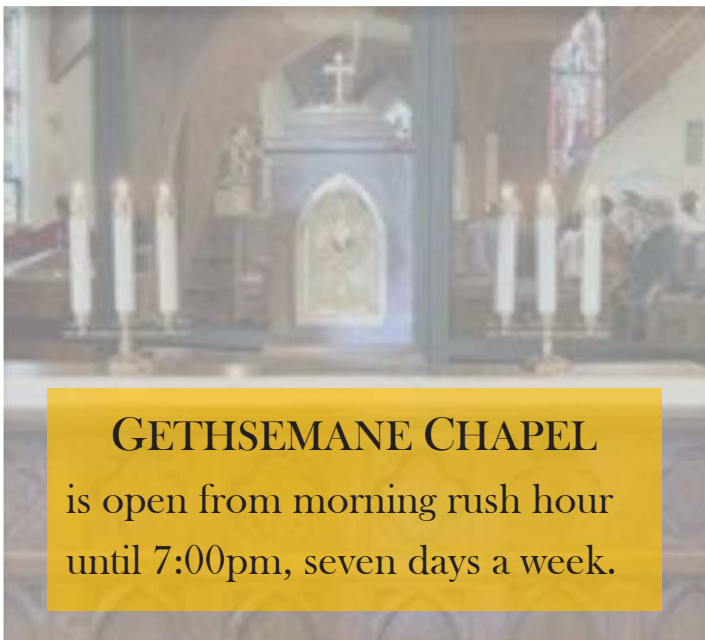
FAITH FORMATION | FIRST COMMUNION | CONFIRMATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Year has begun. Please spread the word.

To register, please go to our homepage (methuencatholic.org), click on the "SIGN UP" link, and follow the instructions OR

call the office for more information: (978) 683 -1193 or (978) 686 -3311 OR reach out to Karl Jackson at faithformation.stlm@gmail.com.

Due to Covid-19, both parish programs (both St. Monica's and St. Lucy's) will meet at St. Lucy's Campus on Sunday afternoons. Meetings are scheduled to begin at the end of September/beginning of October.



GETHSEMANE CHAPEL
is open from morning rush hour
until 7:00pm, seven days a week.

THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE

Our chapel & shrine is open weekday mornings as well as weekends during Mass times.



METHUEN CATHOLIC

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PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
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www.methuencatholic.org
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

(978) 686 - 9573

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Pierce	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
methuencatholic@gmail.com	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com	
Eric Berthiaume	Music Director
Sharon Waning	Music Ministry (St. Lucy)
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA
Chrissy Cerretani	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
Sharon Tully	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY



The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality have returned to their regular monthly meetings after the 10AM mass. **All women of St. Lucy's and St. Monica's are welcome!** The Sodality strives to lead its members to Jesus through Mary by perpetuating devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer and charitable works in her name and to assist the Community spirituality, socially, and financially.

To support our charitable giving, the Sodality has planned a **Welcome Back Raffle**. The drawing will take place at our October 10th meeting. We will sell raffle tickets after all masses at both churches on the weekends of **9/25** and **10/3** You can also contact a Sodality member for tickets. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe
September 14, 2021 - November 9, 2021

Place: St. Monica Church
Time: 7 p.m.
Nine consecutive Tuesdays

Novena to *Our Lady of Guadalupe*:
 Patroness of the Americas, Queen of the first and the new evangelization, and Patroness of the unborn.

The Knights of Columbus will be having their annual Tootsie Roll drive the weekend of October 9th & 10th. They will be on sale after the Masses at Saint Monica and Saint Lucy's.



Social Distancing Update
 The taped off sections of the left back pews in both parishes are **ONLY** for those who would prefer an extra margin of social distancing while attending Mass. Parishioners must wear masks and be 6 feet apart in these designated pews. As always, you are welcome to wear a mask anywhere in the Church while attending

Faith Formation begins next weekend
 Kindergarten - Eighth Grade Sunday, September 26th from 12:45 - 2:45 at St Lucy Church
 Confirmation 1 & 2 Sunday, October 3, 12:45pm-2:45pm at St. Lucy Church.
 Meetings include Mass from 1:00-2:00pm. Families are welcome.

Men's Guild!!
Sunday, September 26th, 2021

Members are invited to gather in the church hall immediately following the 10:00 AM Mass. **All men of our Parish are welcome** and invited to learn more about the Men's Guild mission, including new and exciting projects to support our parish, and information about our November Veteran's Event. Bring a friend and join us to offer any new ideas for the coming year. Refreshments will be served. Any Questions -call 978-360-9256



If you are an adult interested in learning more about receiving the sacraments or becoming a Catholic please contact Kevin @ 978-683-1193 or Bonnie at 978-609-7307



GOT QUESTIONS?

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to ask life’s big questions, explore faith, and share their story. Unfortunately, just when life’s big questions become most pressing, we have nowhere to discuss them. We offer the Alpha Course to provide space for people to come, share a meal, and discuss life’s big questions. Bring a friend and join us on Tuesday evenings. No judgment. No obligation. Come and see for yourself.

WHO: Anyone eighteen years or older

WHAT: Dinner, Friendly Conversation, Video Presentation

WHERE: St. Lucy Parish | Lower Church Hall | 254 Merrimack St.

WHEN: Tuesday Evenings | 6:00-8:00pm

September 28 - December 7

CONTACT: Karl Jackson (978) 683-1193 or faithformation.stlm@gmail.com



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St Monica/St Lucy Conference

is collecting your donations of Clothes, Shoes and
Linen

Saturday, October 16th (10-5)
and Sunday, October 17th (9-12)

No furniture or household items accepted

Please help us-help others!

An SVDP truck will be located in the **Parking Lot** of St.

Monica’s Parish

212 Lawrence Street

Methuen, MA 01844

**Scripture Classes on the Book of Revelation with
Presenter Rachel Voiland**

Mark your Calendar and Come Join Rachel for
Book of Revelation scripture classes
in the School House at St. Lucy’s

You can choose to attend on a
Saturday or Wednesday weekly
Time: 2 PM in the School House

Dates: Saturday Oct. 16th - Wed. November 24th.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- Our Lady's Sodality Meeting following 10:00am
Mass St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Baptisms 12:00pm St. Lucy Church
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- Rosary For Priests Prayer Group 6 pm
Gethsemane Chapel
- Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe 7:00pm St.
Monica Church

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- Al-Anon 10 am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Prayer and Study 10am - 12 pm St. Monica Ranch
House

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- SVdP Meeting 6:30pm St. Lucy Schoolhouse
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- AA 10am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration 2 - 5 pm Gethsem. Chapel
- Confessions 4 - 5 pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- Sodality Raffle Ticket Sales after Wknd Masses
- Bettor’s Anonymous 2pm St. Monica SVDP Hut
- Knight’s of Columbus Installation Ceremony 3 PM
St Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel and
St. Lucy Church

ST. MONICA SCHOOL has **part-time openings** for:

- Special Education Teacher
- STEM Teacher
- Technology Teacher
- Afterschool Program Staff

Please contact Donna Henderson at 978-686-1801 or principal@methuencatholic.org for more information.



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DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FIRST COMMUNION, FAITH FORMATION (CCD), BAPTISM, OR OTHER SACRAMENTS?

contact Karl Jackson at (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35 | faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

ROSES FOR LIFE FOR THIS WEEK

Theresa A. Rickley

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

ALTAR BREAD FOR SEPTEMBER

St. Monica Parish - Rita Conroy

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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MASS SCHEDULE

SAT 4 pm (VIGIL) both parishes
SUN 9 am & 11 am St. Monica | 10 am St. Lucy
MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9:00 am St. Lucy
FIRST SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica

CONFESSIONS

3 - 3:45 pm both parishes
4 - 5pm Gethsemane Chapel
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
2 - 5 pm Gethsemane Chapel

BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00pm St. Monica's | 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00pm 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.

INTROIT*Ps 37 (36): 38, 40, 28*

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*For the Beauty of the Earth*

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter,
 1. of the skies, For the love which from our birth
 2. of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
 3. par - ent, child, Friends on earth and friends a - bove,
 1. O - ver and a - round us lies.
 2. Sun and moon, and stars of light. Lord of all, to
 3. For all gen - tle thoughts and mild.
 you we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

CONFITEOR - KYRIE - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Wisdom 2:12 17-20*

The wicked say: Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6, 8*

R. The Lord up - holds my life.

1. O God, by your name save me,
 and by your might defend my cause.
 O God, hear my prayer; hearken to
 the words of my mouth.

2. For the haughty have risen up
 against me, the ruthless seek my life;
 they set not God before their eyes.

3. Behold, God is my helper; the
 Lord sustains my life. Freely will I
 offer you sacrifice; I will praise
 your name, O LORD, for its
 goodness.

SECOND READING*James 3:16-4:3*

Beloved: Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

ALLELUIA*2 Thes 2:14*

✠ God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL*Mark 9:30-37*

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

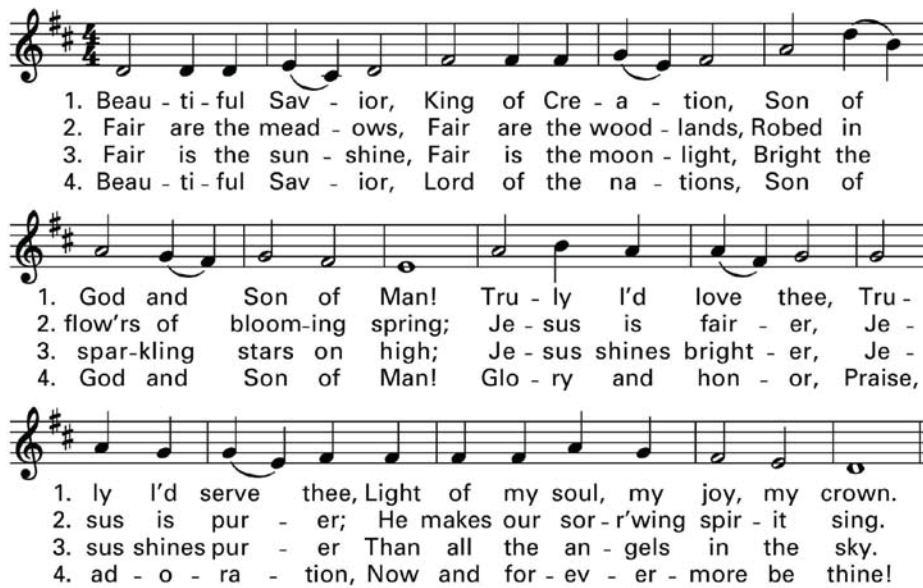
PROFESSION OF FAITH*Refer to Pew Card***SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Ps 119: 4,5*

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

COMMUNION HYMN*Taste & See*

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the
 Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the
 good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Beautiful Savior*


1. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of Cre - a - tion, Son of
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

1. God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru -
 2. flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je -
 3. spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je -
 4. God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise,

1. ly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 2. sus is pur - er; He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 3. sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 4. ad - o - ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!



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PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

Saint 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.

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ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, September 18

4:00pm Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

Sunday, September 19

9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Don Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Connie & Albert Zampelli
Betty Pierce
Jose & Eulalia Aguiar

11:00am Roberta Palmisano

Saturday, September 25

4:00pm Betty Pierce

Sunday, September 26

9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Ann Humlak
Deceased Members of the
Waterworth Family
Nancy Tardif
Howie & Norma Hart
Ann Thomas
11:00 AM Michael Foley

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, September 18

4:00pm James M. Mahoney

Sunday, September 19

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Margaret J. Covey
Mark Nichols
Anna Lavoie

Monday, September 20

9:00am Manny Gianni &
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, September 21

9:00am Margaret Collins

Thursday, September 23

9:00am Christine Messina Bolduc
Carmela Messina

Friday, September 24

9:00am Mary Pelletier

Saturday, September 25

4:00pm Janet Szostak

Sunday, September 26

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Bertrand LeBlanc & Real Taschereau
Sid & Nancy Demarco
Roger & Grace Barbin
Joe & Marie Querol
Francis J & Frances S Kobrenski
Dora Giuffrida

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINAR.
Sunday	09/19/20 21	Fr. Christopher O'Connor	Mateus Martin
Mon- day	09/20/20 21	Fr. Steven Clemence	Paolo Strudthoff
Tues- day	09/21/20 21	Fr. John Grimes	Javier Padilla
Wedne- sday	09/22/20 21	Msgr. Michael Foster	Gustavo Neitzke
Thurs- day	09/23/20 21	Fr. Robert Butler	Michael Castellon
Friday	09/24/20 21	Fr. Edward Serena	Ulises Diaz
Satur- day	09/25/20 21	Fr. Thomas Kelly	Aaron Sanz



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Matt W., Grace P., Elizabeth P., Daniel V., Nicole,** and **Daniel R.**

Please pray for **Ann Thomas, Maria Dedeus, and Francis R. Manzer,** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. May their souls and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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October 15, 2021

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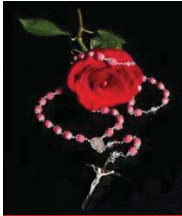
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