

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 10
2023

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way. Mark 1:2

Here we are in the midst of another Advent season, preparing to celebrate Christmas - preparing our hearts, minds and souls for this grand celebration.

Isaiah preaches, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low, the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

Therefore, we want to fill up "what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of His Body, which is the church." Which means, we offer up as Jesus did any sufferings that come our way and also those little mortifications which we willingly take on for our own personal sanctification as well as offering little inconveniences for other souls.

We want to more sincerely lower ourselves. Humbly walk with Our Lady, "the Lowly Handmaid of the Lord," as she journeys to Bethlehem with St. Joseph, the diligent protector and servant of Christ.

Through prayer, meditation, adoration, the Eucharist and confession we will smooth over those rough edges of our character and thus walk a straighter path to Heaven "for our God."

Mindful of this great season, we are especially blessed during this second week of Advent to celebrate two wonderful feasts.

First, on Tuesday, we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. The glorious event when Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego with a few requests which were eventually fulfilled with help from the miracle of roses blooming out of season, as well as the miraculous image of Mary that appeared on St. Juan's garment which had carried the roses to the bishop. It is an extremely interesting event as you read about all the other tiny miracles connected to the incident, although the greatest miracle was the conversion of 1 million natives to the faith, while 1 million Catholics were being lost in Europe to the so-called Protestant Reformation.

Then on Wednesday, we honor St. Lucy. Normally, we celebrate her day as a memorial, but because she is our co-patron at St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes, we celebrate this day as a feast, and maybe even more so because she is the patron saint of Syracuse and all of Sicily.

At a young age, Lucy became a Christian and consecrated herself to our Lord. Her parents betrothed Lucy to a pagan suitor, but she refused to marry. He got upset and denounced her as a Christian. Therefore, she was arrested and tortured. Lucy was first brought to a brothel where no one could touch or move her, Then the attempt was made to burn her, but the flames wouldn't touch her. Finally, she was killed by the sword.

St. Lucy is depicted with her eyes on a plate because in order to appear unattractive, she removed her eyes. However, her eyesight was miraculously restored through St. Peter's intercession. St. Lucy's witness (martyrdom) urges us to be convicted in the faith, "then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Good Catholic King Canute the Great, of the North Sea Empire (England, Denmark & Norway) declared that St. Lucy's Feast Day would begin the celebration of Christmas because her witness illuminates Our Lord's presence. Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Lucy help us to "Prepare the Way of the Lord."

Enjoy this Advent season, "conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God."



**CHRISTMAS SHARING
AT
METHUEN CATHOLIC**

In support of St. Vincent DePaul Society, our parishes will be collecting gift cards for children and families in need.

We are requesting gift cards from the following:

- Walmart
- Target
- Market Basket

Any denomination will be accepted.

Designated boxes will be on display at the rear of each church from November 26 - December 12th.

Realizing these are difficult times for all of us, whatever you can do to brighten another family with your generosity will be truly appreciated. God bless you all.

If you have any questions, please call:

- St. Lucy's - Annette Autiello - 508-783-1544
- St. Monica's - Mary Jo Farelli - 978-265-9923



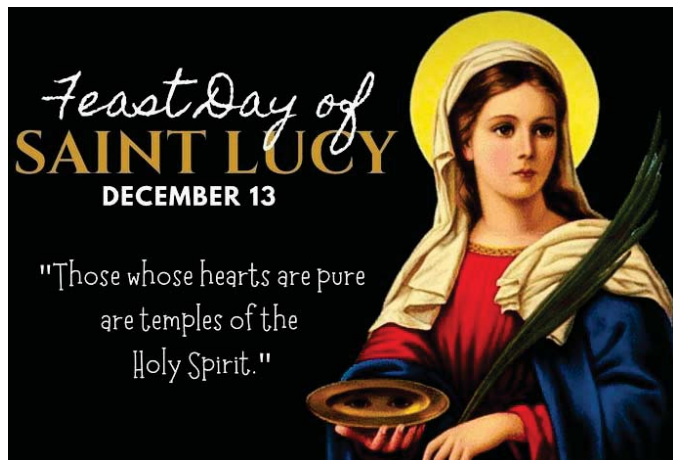
**JOIN THE
CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

Anyone interested in singing Christmas carols for Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve are encouraged to join our Christmas Choir.

All ages are welcome!

Rehearsals have begun and are being held at St. Monica's on Saturdays at 3:30pm.

Musical Blessings,
Brink Bush, Director of Music
brinkbush@gmail.com



Feast Day of
SAINT LUCY
DECEMBER 13

"Those whose hearts are pure
are temples of the
Holy Spirit."

St. Lucy Parish Patronal Feast Day Mass
6pm
Followed by refreshments

PLEASE NOTE

Because Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, we will still follow our regular weekend mass schedule for both parishes. Additional masses will be held on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

St. Monica Parish

Saturday, December 23	9am	
	4pm	
Sunday, December 24	9am	
	12pm	
	4pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25	9am	Christmas Day Mass

St. Lucy Parish

Saturday, December 23	4pm	
Sunday, December 24	10:30am	
	4pm	Christmas Eve Mass
	10pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25	10:30am	Christmas Day Mass

BEREAVEMENT HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

We are offering a two-part workshop dealing with the challenges faced by individuals who have lost a loved one and are facing the Christmas Holiday feeling alone.

Another workshop will be held on December 11 from 6-7:30pm at St. Monica House. The group is offered as a free service to the community.

Contact Christine at the Parish Offices to register, 978-683-1193.

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

Advent & Christmas Seasons

December 12-13

Advent Mission

**ADORE: Evening of Chant and Song with
Confessions available**

December 12 | 6-8pm | St. Lucy Church

Patronal Feast of St. Lucy Mass

December 13 | 6pm | St. Lucy Church
followed by refreshments

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols

December 17 | 4pm | St. Monica
followed by Christmas Party

**December 24-25, January 1
Christmas Season Masses**

St. Lucy Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 10pm

Christmas Day | 10:30am

New Years Day | 9:00am

St. Monica Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm

Christmas Day | 9am

New Years Day | 12:00pm

DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm
Rosary Prayer Group for Priests
Gethsemane Chapel

Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, December 10th

St. Monica School Hall
after the 9am mass.

Sunday, December 17th

St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
After the 10:30am mass.

Everyone is welcome!

If you are interested in helping with this
ministry, please contact Karl at the office,
extension 35 or email
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

THE MARIE RIVIER ASSOCIATES (MRA) OF THE PRESENTATION OF MARY

We hold our monthly meeting on the second
Tuesday of the month after the 9am mass at St.
Lucy Church. Our next meeting is December 12th.
All men and women are invited
especially those who are associates or have made
the Rivier Retreat.

This year our topic is
7 Secrets of Divine Mercy by Vinny Flynn.

Please contact Maureen Slattery for more infor-
mation or to reserve a book (\$15) and a spot.
twigs5mcs@gmail.com

Advent Mission

Tuesday, December 12

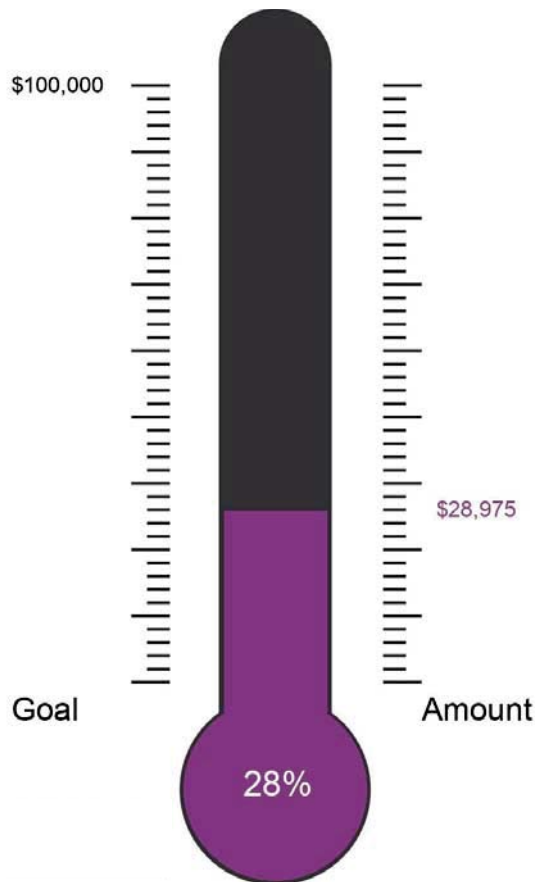
6-8pm

St. Lucy Church

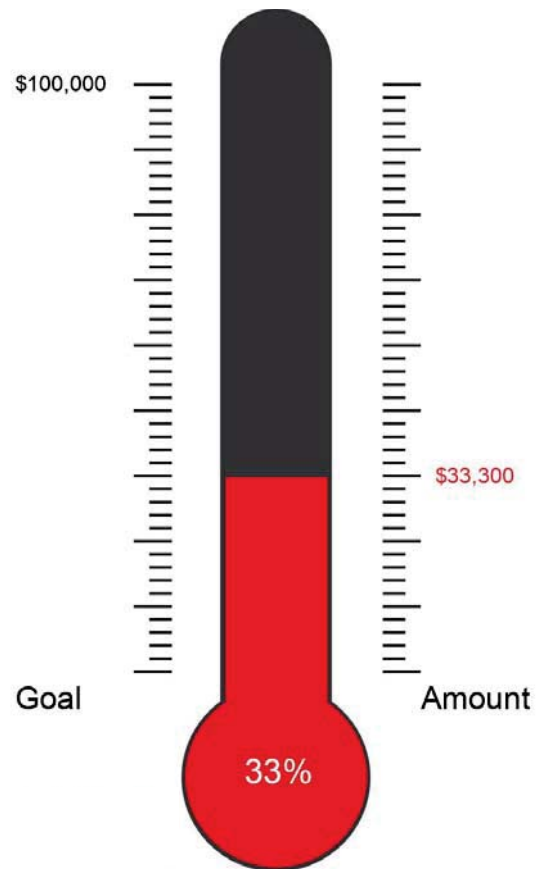
Prepare your heart for the Lord and join us for an uplifting evening of Adoration, Confessions, Music & Speaker.

All are welcome to attend.

St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



OFFERTORY NOVEMBER 25 & 26

St. Monica - \$8,877.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$4,553.⁰⁰

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 soups, cereal, rice sides, 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 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/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
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: M - F 9am - 2pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

PASTORAL 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@gmail.com	



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

SCHOOL STAFF

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Is 30: 19, 30*

O people of Sion, behold, the lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

ENTRANCE HYMN*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine
2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our

1. own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell thy
2. spir - its by thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y

1. peo - ple save, And give them vic - t'ry
2. clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows

1. o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
2. put to flight.

el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Is 40: 1-5, 9-11*

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Ps 85: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14*

℣. Lord, let us see your kind - ness, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD - for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

SECOND READING*2 Pt 3: 8-14*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL*Mk 1: 1-8*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,

Make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from 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. Amen.



COMMUNION HYMN*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Chorus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path.

And show me the way to the Father.

Chorus

3. I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. **Chorus.**

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The
 night and the day are both a - like. The
 Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

POSTLUDE AT ST. MONICA*Mr. Bush*RECESSIONAL HYMN*On Jordan's Bank*

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
 2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry soul from sin; Make
 3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
 4. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee Whose
 1. nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
 2. straight the way of God with - in, Pre - pare we in our
 3. ref - uge and our sure re - ward; Shine forth, and let thy
 4. ad - vent set thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
 1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2. hearts a home, Where such a might - y guest may come.
 3. light re - store Our souls to heav'n - ly grace once more.
 4. we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 9

9:00am Yvonne & Roland Soucy
 4:00pm Aline Duncan
 Valorie Duncan
 Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza

Sunday, December 10

9:00am Joseph O'Neill
 Robert Roche
 Maria & Fred Laird
 Charlie & Rose Hanafin
 Theresa & William Leach
 Alice Franz
 Gregory L'Heureux
 12:00pm For the Parishioners of
 St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

Saturday, December 16

9:00am Josphe Lavigne
 Yvette Moran
 Mike Milnes
 4:00pm Jamie & Jacob McDaniel

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Amy Waterworth
 Robert Putnam
 Mike Quintana
 Robert Ouelette, Sr.
 Robert Ouelette, Jr.
 12:00pm Richard McCarron

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/10/23	Fr. David Callahan	Paulo Carvalho
Mon	12/11/23	Fr. Richard Fitzgerald	Nicholas Colon
Tues	12/12/23	Fr. Fidel Anda-Gomez	Ryan Henderson
Wed	12/13/23	Pope Francis (1969 ordained)	Jake Livingstone
Thurs	12/14/23	Fr. John Delaney	Christian Ortez
Fri	12/15/23	Fr. Oscar Pratt	Rafael Rubio
Sat	12/16/23	Fr. Anthony Cusack	Christopher Şilebi

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 9

4:00pm Dominick "Rex" Campone
 Tomas & Adrianna Campone & Deceased
 Members of their Family

Sunday, December 10

10:30am Domenick & Mary Rotonelli
 Giuseppi & Francesca Bevilacqua
 Maria DiFruscia
 Rocco DiFruscia
 Maria Giuseppa DiFruscia
 Vincenzo & Raffaella Santantonio
 & Pascuale
 Deceased Members of the Carelli
 & Rea Families
 Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality

Monday, December 11

9:00am William & Margaret Collins
 Joseph Collins
 Winifred Mulcrone

Tuesday, December 12 - LIVING INTENTIONS

9:00am Bernard and Margert Maher
 Jean Eiden

Wednesday, December 13 - FEAST OF ST. LUCY

6:00pm Patronal Feast Day Mass

Thursday, December 14

9:00am Christine Ferguson

Friday, December 15

9:00am Robert & Annie Loughlin

Saturday, December 16

4:00pm Perry, Clara, Steven & Beverly Autiello

Sunday, December 17

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

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Michelle O., Nora N., Brian J., Bill R., Patrice K., Jason & Matt W.

Please pray for Olive Arsenault & Abraham Hajjar whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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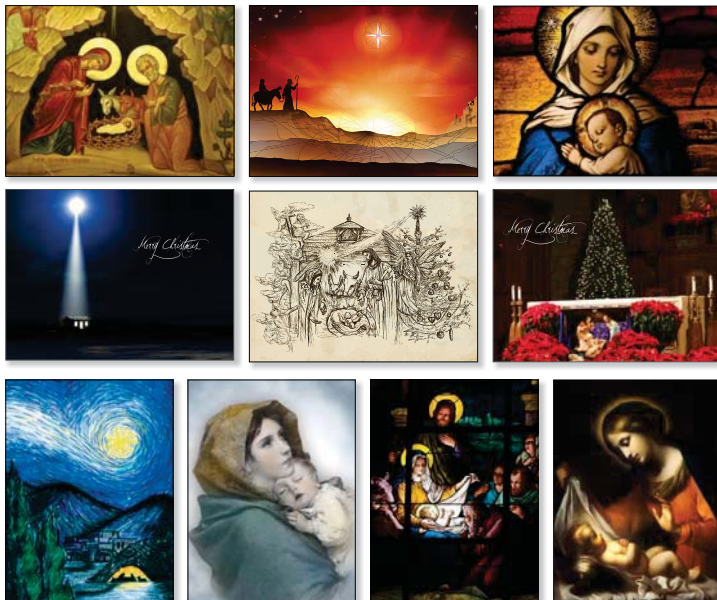
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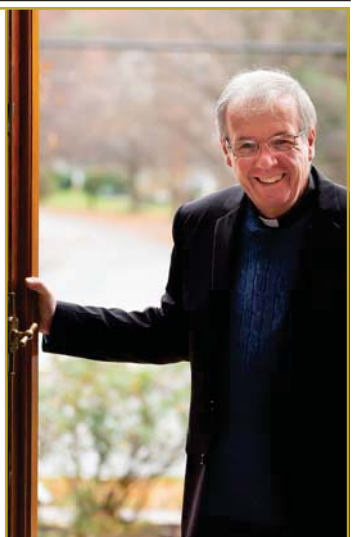
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35



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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become far more difficult
for family members
left behind to make them."**

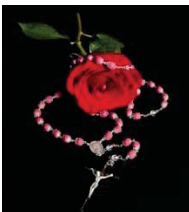
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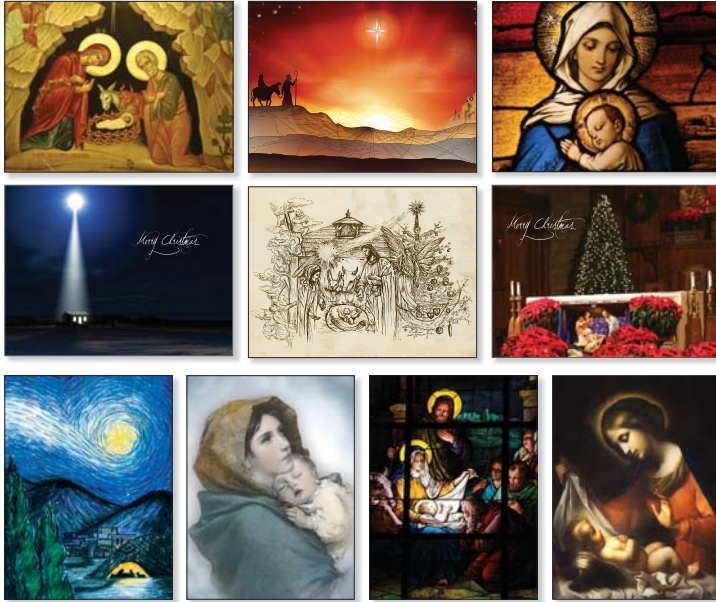
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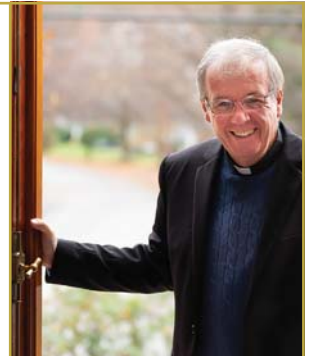
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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