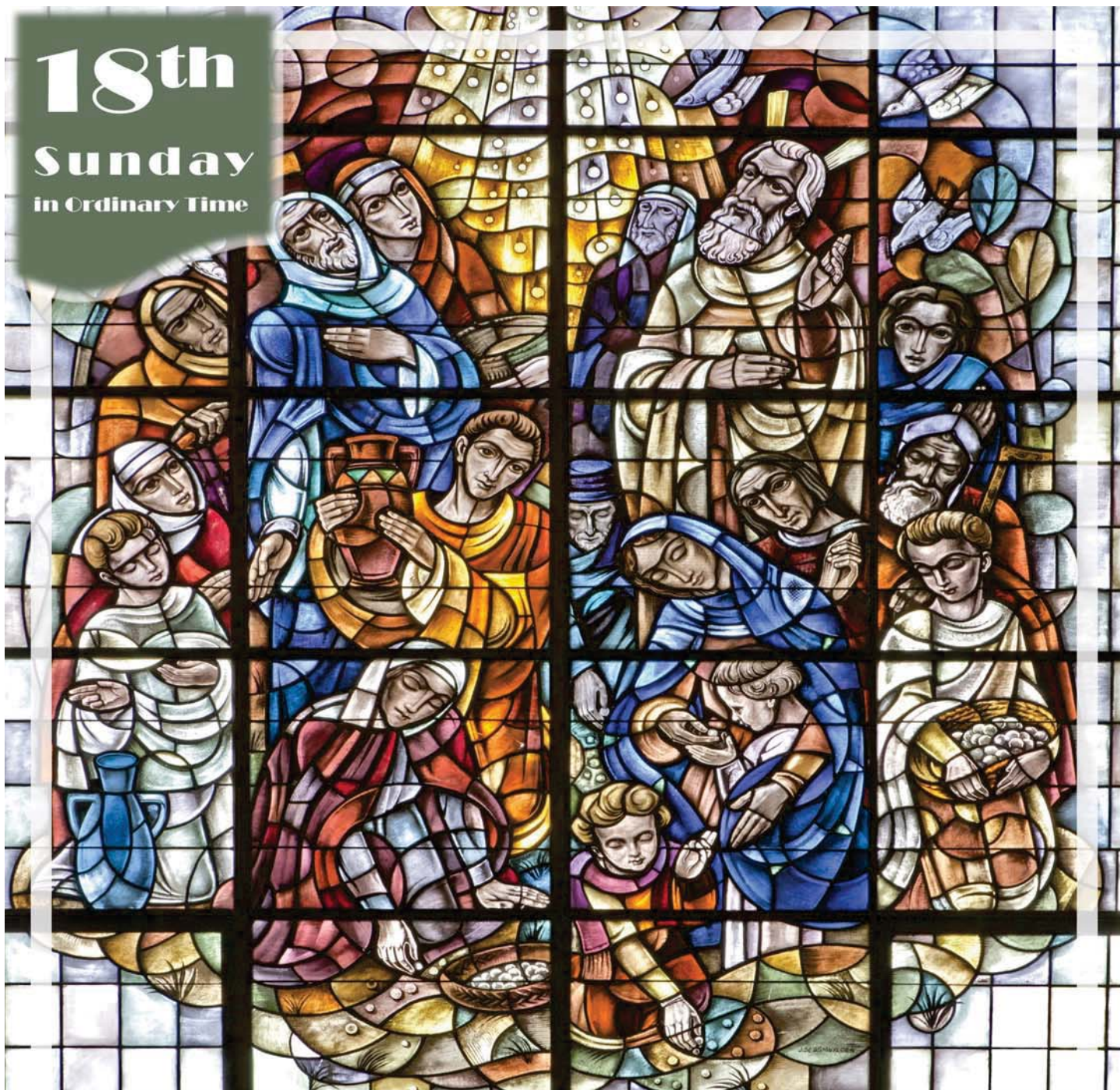


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

AUG 04
2024

18th
Sunday
in Ordinary Time



"Our ancestors ate manna in the desert." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

John 6:31,35

© PilotBulletins

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

Friends,

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and a gifted spiritual giant. I had the privilege of hearing him speak about 20 years ago. He has written many challenging books centered on God, Christianity, and the Catholic Church. He focuses much of his writing on personal growth and taking responsibility for what he believes. I have often mentioned to Cardinal O'Malley that Richard Rohr should be invited to address the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston at our Annual Convocation. That has not happened.

One of his latest books, *Wisdom Pattern*, offers wonderful insight into the joys and challenges of being a faith-filled disciple of Christ. I wish to focus on one chapter of the book titled "Cosmic Egg." Don't let those words frighten you. I like reading anything that broadens my horizons or challenges me to look at everyday occurrences from a new perspective. In this chapter, he writes about the differences between *My Story*, *Our Story*, and *THE Story*. Think about it: Each of us has a personal life (*My Story*), which is influenced by the circumstances into which we are born (*Our Story*), which is impacted by the world (*THE Story*).

I don't know if we are always aware, but we do decide how each of these stories will play a role in our lives. *My Story* includes those who tend to be very private, comfortable, and complacent, those who can isolate themselves by remaining aloof from outside influences, and, so, their story may center around themselves as an individual. I suppose this stage is very common to children who only know they have needs that must be met by others but are not yet aware of the impact those others play in life itself. At this stage, I may have no need to reach out beyond myself other than to satisfy my own needs. It's about my home, my job, my feelings, what I believe, and what is good for me. Many adults choose to live this life.

If we move to the second tier, *Our Story*, we now realize that we are social beings who are influenced by groups, communities, our country, our church, and the experiences we have. We welcome friends and allow them to enter and influence our story. As Richard Rohr writes: "This second dome gives us myth, cultural heroes, group symbols, flags, special foods, ethnicity, and patriotism. These tell us that we are not alone and that we are connected to a larger story." However, the group identity for some becomes so prominent that they may *first* describe themselves as Irish, Democrat, American, Catholic, or Red Sox fans. We may also become so attached to these identities that we can no longer see them as negotiable and have a difficult time "tolerating" anyone who is an outsider. The danger is that we begin to believe that we have God all to ourselves in these tribes.

Now, we enter *THE Story* which is about the universe and the quest for meaning and truth which is centered on God's presence in our world and beyond. These are "the great stories that free us from the tyranny and the idolatry of the first two stories." Without *THE Story*, we remain trapped in small cultural and private worlds. Life challenges us to see the bigger picture, to open ourselves to different perspectives, and to see beyond what is before us.

Personally, I don't believe I would be capable of a broader understanding of *THE Story* if I didn't invite God into my life. That overwhelming presence of something greater than "I" does not allow me to get too attached to *My Story* or *Our Story*. I value both, and they surely continue to contribute to making me the person I am today. But this is only because I am a believer that *THE Story* has to take precedence in my life.

A healthy person is able to integrate and appreciate the importance and meaning of all three stories. Or, as the saying goes, "It's a big world out there."

Enjoy Life!

Fr. Ron Coyne

"A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration helps to bring everlasting peace to earth." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

Begins August 15 at 6:00pm with Holy Day Mass

Concludes August 17 at 9:00am with Saturday Morning Mass

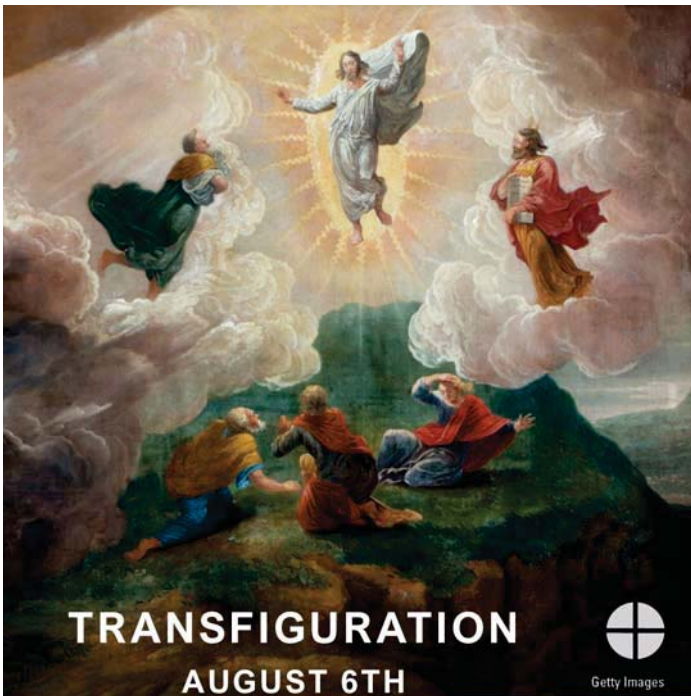


METHUEN CATHOLIC
THE PARISHES OF ST. LUCY & ST. MONICA

40 HOUR DEVOTION

Thursday, August 15 - Saturday, August 17
Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church
212 Lawrence St. | Methuen, MA

Please contact Maureen 978-683-0589 or email at twigs5mcs@gmail.com
Sign up as a family or Partner with a friend



TRANSFIGURATION
AUGUST 6TH

Getty Images

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord honors when the apostles get their first real glimpse of Jesus in his ultimate glory.

PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

FOOD	MANNA	LIFE
THIRSTY	FAITH	HUNGRY
MIRACLE	BREAD	COMES

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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

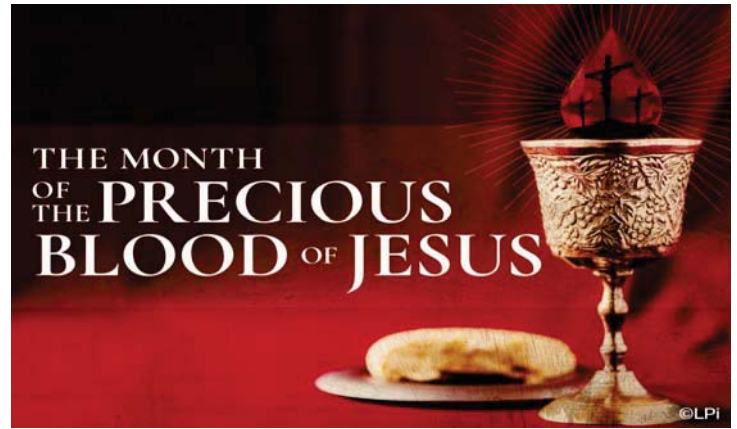
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays - to resume in September

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Saturdays 9am-12pm Gethsemane Chapel

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

254 MERRIMACK STREET, METHUEN MA

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

Come join us for a fun-filled Saturday

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Photo Booth..... Music.....FREE Admission



DID YOU KNOW?

LADYBUGS ARE NAMED FOR THE VIRGIN MARY



As tradition goes, during the Middle Ages a plague of small insects, most likely aphids, attacked the crops and threatened Europe with starvation. The people turned to praying for the intercession of the Virgin Mary. Their prayers were answered when a cloud of tiny orange-red insects speckled with black arrived and ate the offending pests. In gratitude, the people gave them the honorary name "Our Lady's Beetle." Over time, this was shortened to the "ladybeetle" or the "ladybird," and in the United States became what we know today as the ladybug.

Another tradition finds the ladybugs name in its bright red shell that bears a striking resemblance to the red cloak the Virgin Mary is often wearing in religious paintings from the time. In Europe, the most common ladybug is the seven-spotted variety. These seven spots were seen to symbolize both the Seven Joys and Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Its likely that both traditions somewhat contributed to giving the ladybug its name. However, what is definitive is that almost all European countries during the Middle Ages believed them to be a gift from God. Of the variety of names given to the beetle, a majority of them refer to Our Lady.

- *Ye Mariam Tinziza* – "Mary's Beetle" - Amharic (West Ethiopia)
- *Arca de la Mare de Deu* – "Mother of God's Ark" – Catalan
- *Gallinetta de la Mare de Deu* – "Mother of God's Chicken" – Catalan
- *Bubamara* ... "Mary's Beetle" – Croatian
- *Mariehøne* ... "Mary's Hen" – Danish
- *Onzer-lieve-vrouwe Beestje* – "Our Dear Lady's Little Creature" – Dutch
- *Bete de la Vierge* – "The Virgin's Creature" – French
- *Frauenkäferlein* – "Our Lady's Little Beetle" – German (Bohemia)
- *Scarpa de la Madonna* – "The Madonna's Shoe" – Italian (Turin)
- *Kafsch Dus* – "God's Beetle" – Persian (Iran)
- *Boul-popei* – "The Pope's Ox" – Romanian
- *Jungfru Maria Nyckelpiga* – "Virgin Mary's Key Maid" – Swedish

Not convinced enough? According to the Oxford Dictionary, the first mention of the "ladybird" comes from a 1674 glossary of southern English words. The author of the glossary says "the little spotted beetle commonly called the Lady cow, or Lady-bird" is referred to in slang as a "bishop." There is no doubting the strong relationship the ladybug had with medieval Europe's religiosity.

JULY 20 & 21

St. Monica - \$7,440.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$3,867.⁰⁰

Weekly Offertory needed to sustain parish operations: St. Monica - \$10,000 | St. Lucy - \$6,000

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BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

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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

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Closed Wed



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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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(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Psalm 70 (69): 2, 6*

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

ENTRANCE HYMN*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone;
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us, Faith believes, nor questions how:
Though the cloud from sight received him, When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise? "I am with you evermore!"

Alleluia! Bread of Angels, Here on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to you from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners, Earth's redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystic feast.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15*

The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "Would that we had died at the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!"

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.

"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God."

In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, "What is this?" for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 78: 3-4, 23-24, 25, 54*

What we have heard and know, and what our fathers have declared to us, we will declare to the generation to come, the glorious deeds of the LORD and his strength and the wonders that he wrought.

He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven;
he rained manna upon them for food and gave them heavenly bread.

Man ate the bread of angels, food he sent them in abundance.
And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountains his right hand had won.

SECOND READING*Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24*

Brothers and sisters: I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; that is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL*John 6: 1-15*

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written:

He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***John 6: 35*

I am the bread of life, says the Lord,
whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

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*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, As of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van-guard
4. At his feet the six-winged ser - aph; Cher - u - bim with



1. trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
2. earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture;
3. on the way, As the Light of Light de - scend - eth
4. sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,



1. For with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -
2. In the Bod - y and the Blood He will give to all the
3. From the realms of end - less day, That the pow'rs of hell may
4. As with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



1. scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
2. faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
3. van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
4. lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

RECESSIONAL HYMN*The Church's One Foundation*

1. The Chur - ch's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God, the Three - in - One,



1. She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word:
2. Her char - ter of sal - va - tion, "One Lord, one faith, one birth!"
3. She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more,
4. And with the saints, com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won.



1. From heav'n he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
2. One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
3. Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
4. O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1. With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
2. And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
3. And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
4. Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with thee.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, August 3

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS
4:00pm Kathy Dube

Sunday, August 4

9:00am For the Parishioners of St. Monica & St. Lucy
12:00pm Delio Areias
Norma Ouellette

Saturday, August 10

9:00am Thelma McGreevy
4:00pm Salvatore D'Urso

Sunday, August 11

9:00am Terry & George McGreevy
Michael McGreevy
Linda A. Allard
Leo & Margaret Beaudoin
Joseph Donohue
12:00pm For the Parishioners of St. Monica & St. Lucy



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, August 3

4:00pm Deceased Members of the Cortese & Rizzo Families

Sunday, August 4

10:30am Adua DiFelice
Josie Piazza
Leda Crescenzo
John Whittaker
Giuseppi Sergi
In thanksgiving to the Eternal Father

Monday, August 5

9:00am Margaret Gavin Mulligan
Timothy Mulligan

Tuesday, August 6

9:00am Albert, Russell, Roland & Joan Raza
Kenneth & Dale Duncan

Thursday, August 8

9:00am Raymond St. Onge

Friday, August 9

9:00am Andrew & Isabel Mulvaney

Saturday, August 10

4:00pm Lawrence Abruzzese

Sunday, August 11

10:30am Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality
Thomas Wholley
William Hitchmoth
John J. Whittaker
Patricia Rischer

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	08/04/24	All Parish Priests	St. John Vianney (pray for all priests and seminarians)
Mon	08/05/24	Fr. Thomas Bouton	Jake Livingstone
Tues	08/06/24	Fr. Michael Zimmerman	Christian Ortez
Wed	08/07/24	Fr. Francis Sullivan	Rafael Rubio
Thurs	08/08/24	All Dominicans	Christopher Šilebi
Fri	08/09/24	Fr. Brian Clary	Isaac Velazquez
Sat	08/10/24	Fr. Laurence Tocci	Liam Warner

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PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for Barbara Kelliher & Daniel M. Traficante III whose funerals we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



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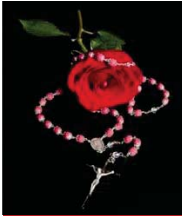


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