

# METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 01  
2024



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot.

Jeremiah 43:14-15

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

### Devout and Expectant Delight

Today the season of Advent begins and with it we begin the Church's liturgical year. How good to live our lives within liturgical time. How good to begin again! These four Sundays and the weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas give us time to prepare for the anniversary of Jesus's birth on Christmas when he first came to us.

We know that he will come again. In the Memorial Acclamation at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, just after the consecration of the bread and wine into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ, the priest says, "The mystery of faith." And we continue, "We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." As we read in the letter to the Hebrews, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." In the certainty of faith, in a trusting spirit, we have hope in Christ. We have the assurance that he will return in glory at the end of time and we have the hope for eternal life with him in heaven.

The word *advent* comes from the Latin *adventus* (meaning *to come to*) which is the translation of the Greek word *parousia* commonly used in reference to the Second Coming of Christ. The earliest Christians believed that Christ's return was imminent. However, the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions, but rather to be alert and ready, living our lives as devout disciples of Our Lord.

The *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year* tell us that, "Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight."

In the midst of the many distraction of the modern world Advent is a time to reorient our lives to Our Lord, deepening our relationship with him. In the sacraments, most especially in the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life, we are in communion with Our Lord and with our brothers and sisters in the many advents between the First and the Second Coming of Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI has written, "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." In these days of Advent we begin again in devout and expectant delight with memories of goodness awakening and doors of hope opening.



*Jesus* is longing for your presence.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday Evenings  
6-7pm  
St. Lucy Church

Saturdays  
9:30am-2:30pm  
Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church

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

Begins Saturday, November 30  
at 4:00pm with Mass

Concludes December 2 at  
8:00am



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

**40 HOUR DEVOTION**

Saturday, Nov 30 - Monday, Dec 2  
Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church  
212 Lawrence St. | Methuen, MA

Please contact Maureen  
978-683-0589 or email at  
twigs5mes@gmail.com  
Sign up as a family or  
Partner with a friend





**JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIRS**

**PRACTICES HAVE BEGUN!** But there is still time. Anyone interested in being part of our Christmas Choirs for our 4:00pm Christmas Eve Masses are encouraged to contact Karl to sign up. We will practice together Tuesdays at 6pm (subject to change) at St. Monica's for now. We will have two choirs: one for each parish's 4:00pm Mass.

Please reach out to Karl at [faithformation.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.stlm@gmail.com)

**HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS**

Please join us for refreshments **Sunday, December 8th** in St. Monica School Hall following the 9am Mass

**Sunday, December 15th** in St. Lucy Lower Church Hall following the 10:30am Mass

St. Monica Knights of Columbus Council 14725 presenting Market Basket gift cards to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist families in need with Thanksgiving dinner.



**HOPE**

Week 1

**Candle Name:** Prophet's Candle  
**Candle Symbolizes:** Hope  
**Reminds Us:** Jesus is coming

**Verse:** Romans 15:12-13

**Prayer:** O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.



**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 23rd- December 10th.

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

**Saint Nicholas**

270-343 , FEAST DAY — DECEMBER 6

From the ninth century in the East and the eleventh century in the West, Nicholas has been one of the most popular saints in Christianity and in Christian art and is the patron of many countries, dioceses, churches, and cities. He was a Greek bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). He is recognized as the origin of the Santa Claus story, as he was known for his generosity and his habit of secret gift giving.

According to folklore, there was a poor family in his village with three daughters, who could not marry without a dowry. One night, while the family was sleeping, Nicholas secretly went up to their front door. The girls had left their shoes outside. Nicholas put several gold coins in each shoe, enough for the girls to marry.

His charity to the poor is commemorated in modern times by those who follow the tradition of stuffing a boot or a stocking with gifts on his feast day. "Santa Claus" comes from the Dutch form of his name, "Sinterklaas." He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, and children.

**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.

Thank you to all who have already donated!

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE  
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

## *Advent & Christmas Seasons*

**December 11 & 13**

**Advent Mission**

**Exposition & Benediction**

**Confessions available**

December 11 | 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church

**Patronal Feast of St. Lucy Mass**

December 13 | 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church

**December 15**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Lessons & Carols**

December 15 | 4pm | St. Monica

*followed by Christmas Party*

**December 24-25, January 1**

**Christmas Season Masses**

**St. Lucy Church**

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 6pm

Christmas Day | 10:30am

New Years Day | 9:00am

**St. Monica Church**

Christmas Eve | 4pm

Christmas Day | 9am

New Years Day | 12:00pm





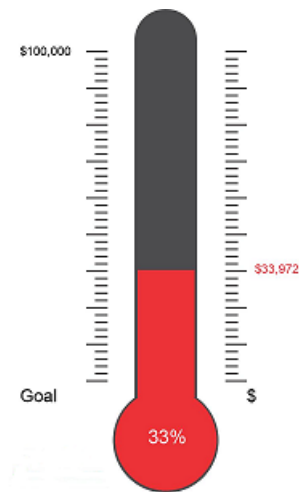
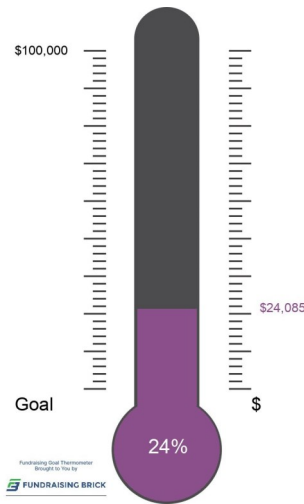
I look to the future with hope, and I invite you to do the same...we have an incredible opportunity to build the Kingdom of God by responding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit for the good of our parish, our community, and ourselves. To become even more vibrant and active in spreading the Gospel and sharing the hope of Christ with others.”

...The Grand Annual Appeal represents a crucial step in achieving our goals. For this reason, I thank you for your generous support of the Appeal, and our weekly offertory/online giving. As Saint Paul write to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Cor 9: 6-8).

As I repeat at the end of every Mass, thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures; and in a special way, thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Marcos*



**St. Monica Parish**



**St. Lucy Parish**



NOVEMBER 16 & 17

St. Monica - \$7,573      St. Lucy - \$4,453

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 Tomato Sauce & Canned Pasta. 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.

<p><b>GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH</b>                  Open 7 days per week from morning rush hour until 7pm</p>	<p><b>CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION                  ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE</b>                  Open 7 days per week from 9am-5pm</p>
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**BAPTISMS** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

<p><b>MASS SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>SAT 4 pm (VIGIL) both parishes                  SUN 9 am &amp; 12 pm St. Monica                  10:30 am St. Lucy                  MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy                  SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica</p>	<p><b>CONFESSIONS</b></p> <p>SAT 3-3:45pm at both parishes</p>
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**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: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 1pm**  
**Closed Wed**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**  
 978.686.9573

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Fr. Marcos Peña	Administrator
<b>frmarcosmethuen@gmail.com</b>	
Fr. Michael Harvey	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Pierce	Senior Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
<b>methuencatholic@gmail.com</b>	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
<b>faithformation.stlm@gmail.com</b>	
Brink Bush	Music Director
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
<b>parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com</b>	



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

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Donna Henderson	Principal
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
<b>smsoffice@methuencatholic.org</b>	

**INTROIT***Psalm 25: 1-2*

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me never be put to shame.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el, And  
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, Who

1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
2. or - der all things might - i - ly; To us the path of

1. ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2. knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall  
come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

**PENITENTIAL ACT***Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her:

“The LORD our justice.”

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14*

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

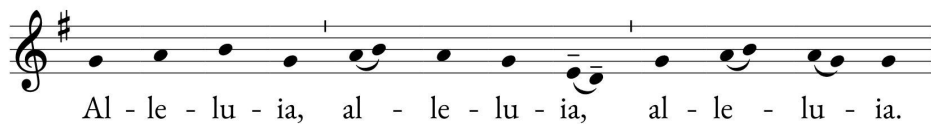
1. Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

2. Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

3. All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

**SECOND READING***1 Thes 3:12-4:2*

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen. Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

**ALLELUIA***Psalm 85:8*

☩ Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

**GOSPEL***John 18:33b-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

**PROFESSION OF FAITH***Refer to Pew Card***SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Psalm 85: 13*

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**COMMUNION HYMN***Come, Lord Jesus*

1. When the dark-ness clos - es in, Come, Lord Je - sus!
2. Wise and fool - ish, still we wait. Come Lord Je - sus!
3. Come to us, O liv - ing Lord, Come, Lord Je - sus!



1. Cour-age fails and hopes grow dim. Lord Je - sus, come!
2. Is our Bride-groom at the gate? Lord Je - sus, come!
3. Come with jus - tice like a sword. Lord Je - sus, come!



1. Clear the shad-ows from our sight; set our trou - bled —
2. At his voice, our hearts have stirred, list - 'ning for his —
3. Come in word and wine and bread; come a - gain that we



1. world a - right. Fill our eyes with ra - diant light. Lord Je - sus, come!
2. heal - ing word, Con - fi - dent our cries are heard. Lord Je - sus, come!
3. poor be fed. Raise your ser - vants from the dead. Lord Je - sus, come!



**RECESSIONAL HYMN***People, Look East*

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more  
 3. Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more  
 4. An - gels, an - nounce on this great feast, him who

1. crown - ing of\_\_\_ the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 2. seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to  
 3. light the bowl\_\_\_ shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 4. com - eth from\_\_\_ the East. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley

1. a - ble. Trim\_\_\_ the hearth\_\_\_ and set\_\_\_ the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 2. nour - ish. That\_\_\_ in course\_\_\_ the flow'r\_\_\_ may flou - rish. Peo - ple, look  
 3. wea - ther, bright\_\_\_ as sun\_\_\_ and moon\_\_\_ to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 4. hum - ming with\_\_\_ the word,\_\_\_ the Lord\_\_\_ is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

*Fine*

1. East and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on\_\_\_ the way.  
 2. East and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on\_\_\_ the way.  
 3. East and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on\_\_\_ the way.  
 4. East and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on\_\_\_ the way.

**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.

**Advent Prayer**

God our Father help us keep watch and strengthen our faith as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wake us up and find us ready to serve and praise him.

Amen

## ST. MONICA PARISH

### Saturday, November 30

9:00am George LaFland  
Fred J. Rapisardi  
Mary Rapisardi

4:00pm Ann Thomas  
Eva Vieweg

### Sunday, December 1

9:00am Arthur & Emilda Gagne  
Fred J. & Jenny Bonaccorsi  
Joseph F. Bonaccorsi  
Sally McCafferty  
Charles & Jenny Bonaccorsi  
Eleanor Bonaccorsi Marchman

12:00pm Gregory L'Heureux

### Saturday, December 7

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS  
4:00pm Alexander & Gloria Vellette  
Alan Tisbert

### Sunday, December 8

9:00am Giuseppe Branchina  
Jim Gablonsky  
Michael McGreevy

12:00pm Maria & Fred Laird

## BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

St. Mary-Immaculate Conception Cemeteries  
& Chapel Mausoleum  
55 Hideaway Ln - Methuen, MA  
978-682-8181 | smic-cemetery.org

## PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/01/24	Fr. Giovanni Argote Infante	Nicholas Jones SJS Providence
Mon	12/02/24	Fr. Paul Clifford	Diego Mendoza RMS Boston
Tues	12/03/24	All Xaverians	Thiago Mesquita de Sousa SJS Boston
Wed	12/04/24	Fr. John Chen	Henry Sueffert RMS Boston
Thurs	12/05/24	Fr. Richard Clancy	Timothy Walsh SJS Boston
Fri	12/06/24	Fr. Nicholas Sannella	Joseph Beale SJS Portland, ME
Sat	12/07/24	Fr. James Savage	Paolo Carvalho SJS Boston

## ST. LUCY PARISH

### Saturday, November 30

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

### Sunday, December 1

10:30am Angelo Maimone  
Rev. Charles Squeglia  
Maria DiFruscia  
Rocco DiFruscia  
Maria Giuseppa DiFruscia  
Sharon Forgetta

### Monday, December 2

9:00am Maria Carelli

### Tuesday, December 3

9:00am Andrew & Isabel Mulvaney

### Wednesday, December 4

9:00am Maria Carelli

### Thursday, December 5

9:00am Joseph Garcia

### Friday, December 6

9:00am Peter Salayko

### Saturday, December 7

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

### Sunday, December 8

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



## PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Eileen F., Robert L., Madelyn, Buddy B., Maria P., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

Please pray for Linda E. Pacheco whose funeral we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.