

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 15
2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

For the past two weeks we have been praying “thy kingdom come” as we anticipate and prepare for the Lord’s coming. With *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday, we now have a deeper and more joyous expectation that Jesus is near. We have moved from an anticipatory hope to a more confident belief, as the prophet Zephaniah proclaims that “the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.” The prophet Isaiah concurs, “Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.” He is near!

Helping us to “rejoice” this weekend, we prayed the shortest chapter in the book of Isaiah, and my favorite. Although we did leave out verse one:

“On that day, you will say: I give you thanks, O Lord;
though you have been angry with me, your anger has abated,
and you have consoled me.”

I don’t think it is so much anger that the Old Testament writers attributed to God when the Israelites rebelled and sinned, but rather a disappointment, displeasure, or concern that we have not reciprocated the love of God our Father, that we have separated ourselves from His love.

However, when Isaiah, the Jews, and hopefully you and I, turn back to God, more fully to God, when we “make straight the way of the Lord” (in the sacrament of confession), and “refrain from every kind of evil,” we will boldly proclaim:

“God indeed is my savior;
I am confident and unafraid.
My strength and my courage is the Lord
And He has been my savior.”

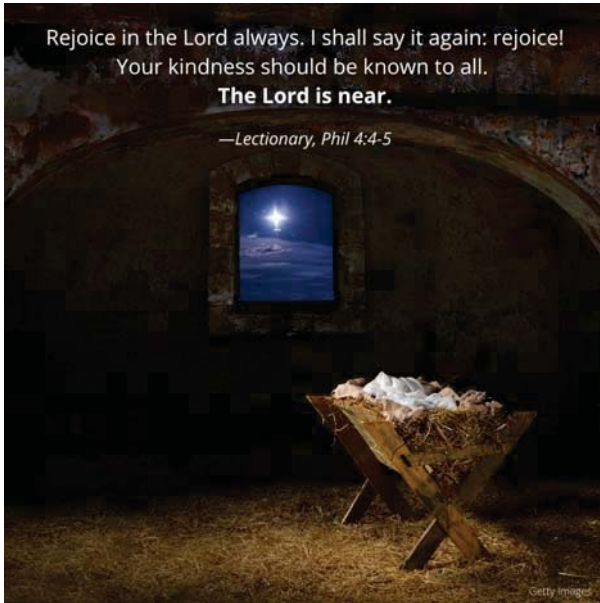
What great uplifting words we are given to meditate on this *Gaudete* Sunday. Even in our dryness, our weakness, fears, and rebellious hearts, God still comes to cleanse, heal, vindicate, strengthen and ransom.

How can you not rejoice “in Thanksgiving” in Him, when “He will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in His love!?” The key is to follow the counsel of St. Paul who says, “Rejoice in the Lord always.”

Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and St. Josemaria certainly embodied this Christian virtue because he truly lived a meaningful life, understanding in his heart that he was a child of God. Here are four points for meditation from *The Way*.

- **658** If things go well, let’s rejoice, blessing God, who makes them prosper. And if they go wrong? Let’s rejoice, blessing God, who allows us to share the sweetness of his cross.
- **659** The cheerfulness you should have is not the kind we might call physiological-like that of a healthy animal. Rather, it is the supernatural happiness that comes from the abandonment of everything, including yourself, into the loving arms of our Father God.
- **665** I want you always to be happy, for cheerfulness is an essential part of your way.
Pray that the same supernatural joy may be granted to us all.
- **864** Being a child, you’ll have no cares; children quickly forget what troubles them and return to their usual games. With abandonment, therefore, you won’t have to worry, for you will rest in the Father.

Continue to travel through this Advent season under the guiding hands of our Father and the gentle touch of Mary, our Hope, Seat of Wisdom.



UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION
Christmas Collection: Clergy Trust
December 25th

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARISH

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed:

Tuesday, December 24th
Wednesday, December 25th
Wednesday, January 1st

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
December 15 at 4pm
St. Monica Church

Come and celebrate the season of Advent with Lessons and Carols at St Monica's!

A series of readings and hymns which tell the story of Christmas.

Our Children's Pageant will also take place as part of the evening.

Take a break from shopping, wrapping and stress and enjoy beautiful music and meaningful readings from the Gospel. All are Welcome!

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
 ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

Advent & Christmas Seasons

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

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!

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

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



Week 3

Candle Name: Shepherd's Candle

Candle Symbolizes: Joy

Reminds Us: The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus

Verse: Luke 2:7-15

Prayer: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

JOY

	<p>St. Lucy's Lower Church Hall</p>
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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

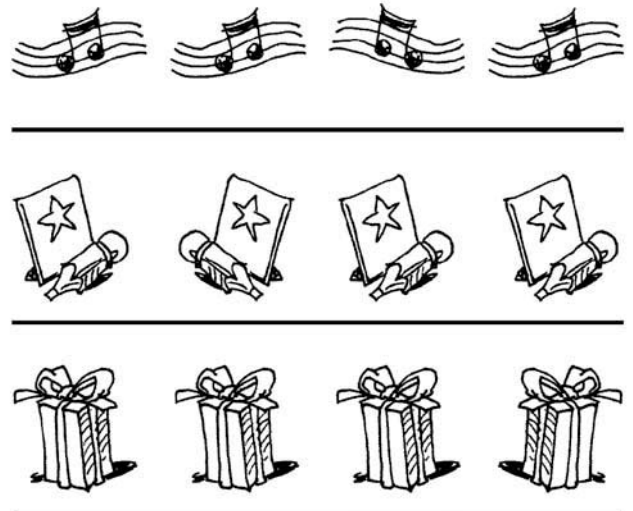
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-7pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions
followed by Evening Prayer.
Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

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

PUZZLE

Circle the pictures that are facing the same way.
Then color in all the pictures.





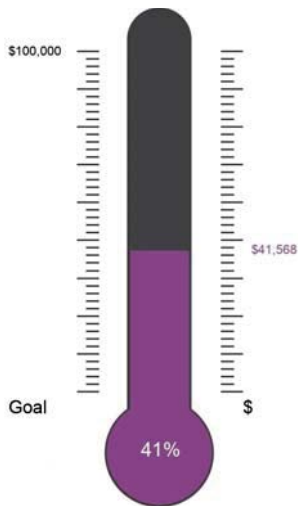
I look to the future with hope, and I invite you to do the same...we have an incredible opportunity to build the Kingdom of God by responding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit for the good of our parish, our community, and ourselves. To become even more vibrant and active in spreading the Gospel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

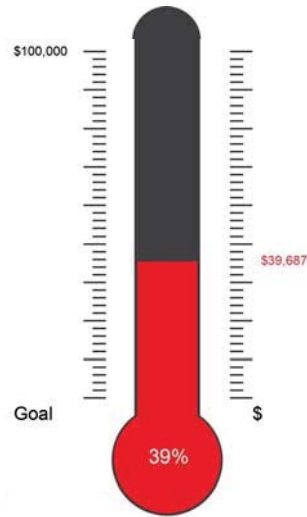
As I repeat at the end of every Mass, thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures; and in a special way, thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Marcos



St. Monica Parish



St. Lucy Parish



NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1

St. Monica - \$7,199 St. Lucy - \$4,516

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.

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

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
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www.methuencatholic.org

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 1pm
Closed Wed



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PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Marcos Peña	Administrator
frmarcosmethuen@gmail.com	
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	
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
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

INTROIT*Philippians 4:4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
2. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who

1. o-pen wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
2. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times once

1. leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
2. gave the law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

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

PENITENTIAL ACT*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6*

R. Cry out with joy and glad - ness: for a - mong you
is the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

1. God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

2. Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

3. Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

ALLELUIA

Isaiah 61:1



✠ The Spirit of the Lord us upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Refer to Pew Card

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI

Refer to Pew Card

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

COMMUNION HYMN

There Is A Longing



Verses



1. For jus - tice,
2. For wis - dom,
3. For heal - ing,
4. Lord save us,



1. for free - dom, for mer - cy: hear our prayer. In
2. for cour - age, for com - fort: hear our prayer. In
3. for whole - ness, for new life: hear our prayer. In
4. take pit - y, light in our dark - ness. We

to Refrain



1. sor - row, in grief: } be near, hear our prayer, O God.
2. weak - ness, in fear: }
3. sick - ness, in death: }
4. call you, we wait: }


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.



On Jordan's Bank

RECESSIONAL HYMN



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 hear - 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 14

9:00am Winifred Mulcrone
Joseph Collins

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

Sunday, December 15

9:00am Amy Waterworth
Deceased Members of
the Quintana Family
Eliza Lasota
William Leach
Theresa Leach
Billy Leach

12:00pm Sheila Spinney

Saturday, December 21

9:00am Deceased Members of the Zampelli,
Royer, Serpa & Indoccio Families

4:00pm Jacob & Jamie McDaniel

Sunday, December 22

9:00am For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica

12:00pm Dick McCarron
Robert Ouellette, Sr.
Robert Ouellette, Jr.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/15/24	Fr. Peter Casey	Rafael Rubio RMS Boston
Mon	12/16/24	Fr. Thomas Nestor	Chris Silebi RMS Boston
Tues	12/17/24	Bishop Kennedy (ordained 1966)	Isaac Velazquez RMS Boston
Wed	12/18/24	Fr. Daniel McCoy	Liam Warner SJS Boston
Thurs	12/19/24	Fr. Robert Browne	Juan Cano RMS Boston
Fri	12/20/24	Fr. Marcelo Ferrari Melo	Luca Contini RMS Boston
Sat	12/21/24	Fr. Richard Curran	Sean McKeown SJS Boston

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 14

4:00pm Deceased Members of the Campone,
Rotonelli & Bevilacqua Families

Sunday, December 15

10:30am Elaine Parrino
Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality
Leda Crescenzo
Margaret & Domenic Nicolosi
Louise & John Salmi
Henry, Betty & Michael Bruno
Michael & Anne Louise Glynn

Monday, December 16

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes

Tuesday, December 17

9:00am Marion Bench

Wednesday, December 18

9:00am Deceased Members of the Muhilly &
Beaudoin Families

Thursday, December 19

9:00am Maria & Francesco Galvagno

Friday, December 20

9:00am Trudy Mulligan

Saturday, December 21

4:00pm Maria & Salvatore Campailla
Silvana Campailla
Michelangelo Iuvara

Sunday, December 22

10:30am Antonio & Evelina Mollica
Adella DiZazzo
John & Mary DiZazzo
Donna Scanlon
Angelo & Laura Chester
Jorge Quintana
Charles DeFrancesco

PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for Marilee Ralph whose funeral we
recently offered. May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace. Amen.

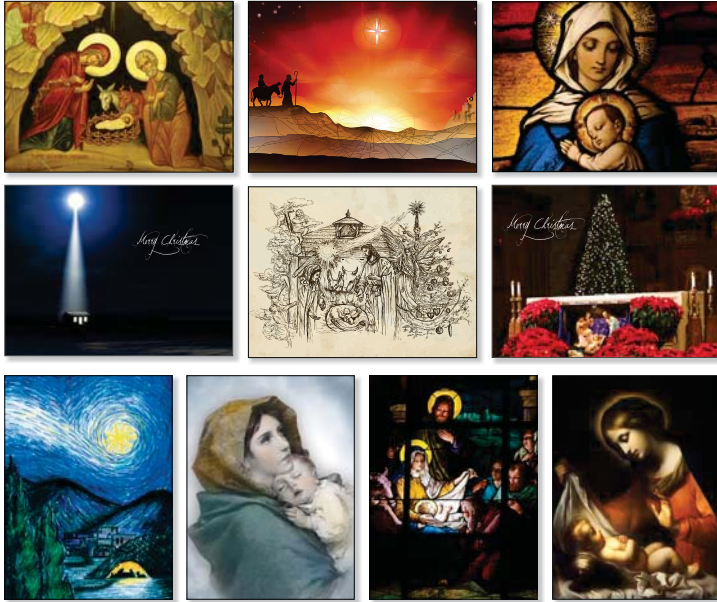
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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

December 7, 7:00PM

December 8, 3:00PM

www.sjs.edu/events

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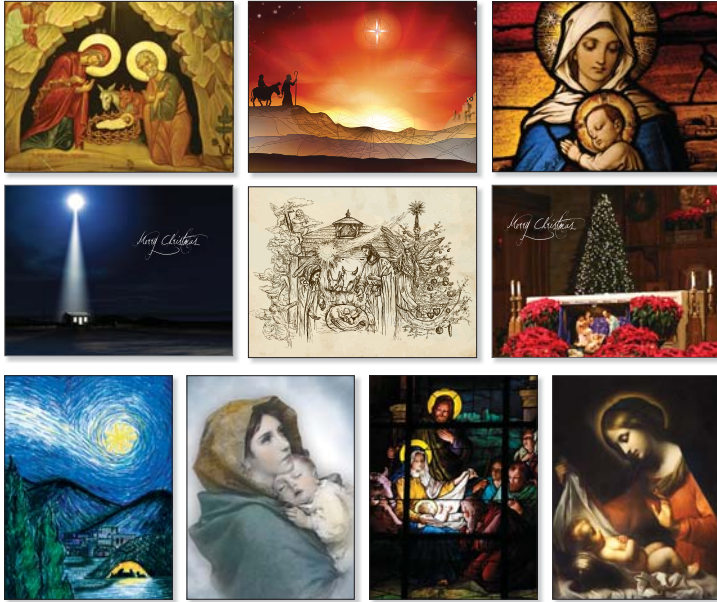
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SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

AN ADVENT
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